MADRAS INFORMATION

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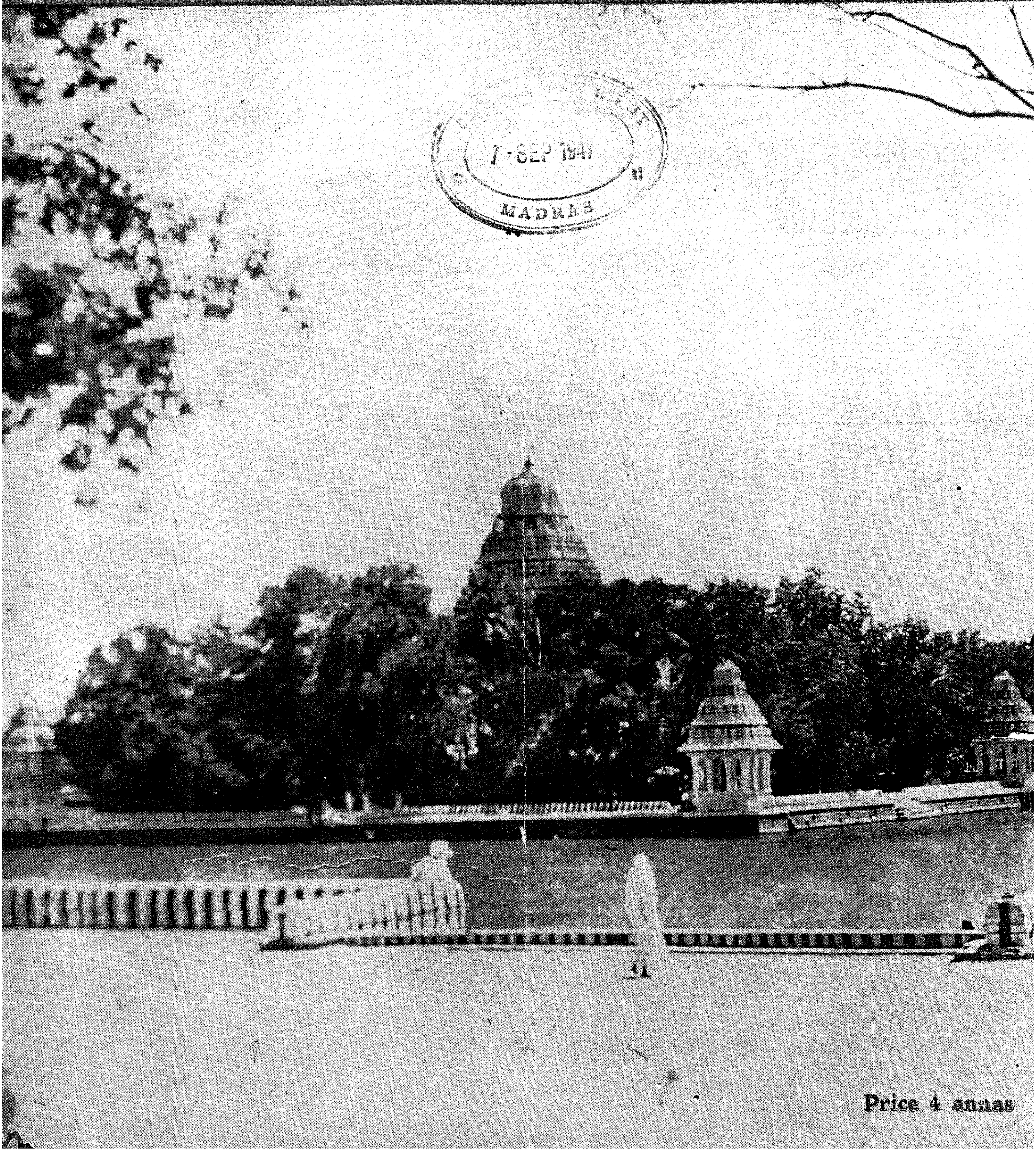
MADRAS



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Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 19 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" August 30, 1947

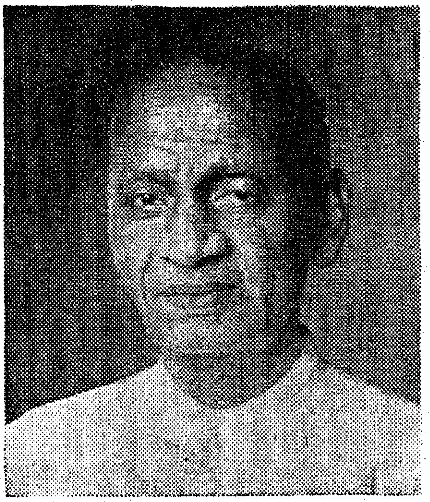
Sardar Patel's Message

I send to the Readers of *Madras Information* my best wishes and greetings on the Independence Day.

Today when we are witnessing the fulfilment of our life's ambition and participating in the victory that has crowned the nation's struggle for freedom, it is our first duty to pay homage to the memory of those whose sacrifices have contributed so much to this glorious conclusion of that struggle. Let the nation honour their memory in the rejoicings which freedom has brought in its train.

For us, the fortunate ones who have lived to see this day, the hour is one both of pride and glory. We are proud to have brougat India to its goal and to acclaim the glorious results achieved by a long-sustained, peaceful and non-violent struggle under Gandhiji's inspiring leadership. Although it must be acknowledged that the goal which we have reached is not the one that we had set out for, there is not the least doubt that there is nothing now to prevent us from moulding the future of India in the manner we like. It is our glory that we are free to share the fruits of the struggle with every man, woman and child in this vast sub-continent.

Let us not forget, however, in the joy of the hour, the stupendous responsibilities and obligations which freedom has brought in its wake. Our primary duty is jealously to guard our freedom against dangers from without and from within. We have also to ensure that the humblest among us has the same stature as the tallest in the land, that Labour gets its legitimate share of its product, that the toiling millions in villages obtain just return for the sweat of their brow, and that the State discharges adequately its elementary



duty of feeding, clothing, housing and educating every son and daughter of the Motherland. It has now been given to us by Providence to fashion our country's destiny according to our cherished ideals and aspirations. If we fail the Motherland, the blame will not lie at others' doors. Indeed, there are enormous difficulties and almost insuperable obstacles in our way, but it is for us to overcome them.

We ask our countrymen to lend us a helping hand in this gigantic task. The duty is too sacred to be profaned by selfish scrambles, internecine dissensions, and narrow prejudices; the responsibilities are too great to be slighted by obstructive tactics or prejudiced by subversive activities. Many a wound of this fair country remains to be healed; many an anguished soul requires to be comforted. In this humanitarian and national endeavour, none can afford either to withhold co-operation or to refuse goodwill. All of us must offer our best in this joint undertaking.

Our hearts naturally go out to those who were of us and with us so long, but who are now to be separated. Few can realise the bitterness and sorrow which partition has brought to those who cherished unity but lived to fashion its details. But let not our brethren across the border feel that they are neglected or forgotten. Their welfare will claim our vigilance and we shall follow with abiding interest their future in full hope and confidence that sooner than later we shall again be united in common allegiance to our country.

It is in this spirit and faith that we must dedicate ourselves this day afresh to the service of the nation and invite all our countrymen to do the same.

MAIN FEATURES

(1) **Independence Day Celebration.**

(2) **Muslims in Indian Union.**

(3) **Pakistan and Provincial Autonomy.**

(4) **Press Notes.**

(5) **Food Front.**

(6) **Preservation of Forest Wealth.**

(7) **Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.**

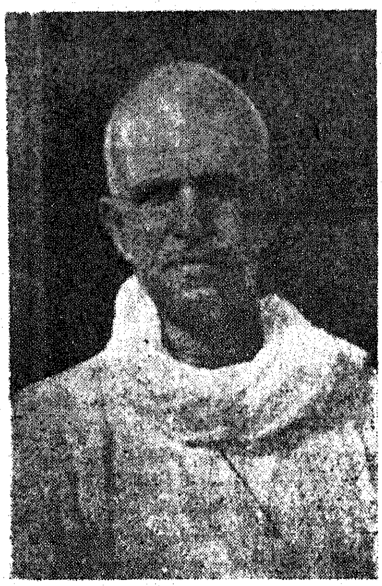
(8) **Provincial Finances.**

(9) **Grow your own vegetables.**

(10) **Rural Reconstruction.**

Independence Day

Prime Minister's Broadcast



On this historic day, when power is being transferred to the people of India, let me convey my respectful greetings to the people of this Province. On this occasion, it is but proper that we pay our homage to our revered leader, Mahatma Gandhi, who had led us through the path of ahimsa to our goal of independence. Let us also pay our homage to the thousands of martyrs who laid their lives at the altar of our Mother India and to the millions of men, women and children who sacrificed for the cause of our country's freedom.

My mind goes back to the days when India was free and to the events that led us into bondage. It was disunity among us and the treachery of a few that first led to foreign invasion. Witness the episode of Jaichand and Prithviraj as also the history of the fall of the Maharatta Empire.

The War of Independence of the year 1857 was waged with much valour and with a lot of loss of life. It unfortunately failed and left the people with a sense of frustration and defeatism. The torch of fight for freedom then lit was dimmed but not extinguished. It was 28 years before the people could rise up and think again of freedom and organize themselves for that purpose under the banner of the Indian National Congress. The Congress first began in a humble way but soon its voice became more strident and persistent and it is under its banner that the country has now achieved freedom.

The great movement of non-co-operation was started by Mahatma Gandhi. The Civil Disobedience Movements in 1930 and 1932 galvanized the nation into a strength which it had not felt before and the people at last began to realize their strength.

The climax in the freedom struggle was reached when in August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi first sent forth the call "Quit India", and it is in the fitness of things that in the same month India should become an independent Dominion. We have suffered much, we have undergone many privations, many of us have lost all that we had, but comparing our freedom struggle with the struggles of other countries, our loss in life and property has been very small indeed—thanks to Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine of non-violence. We have waged our war of independence without any feeling of bitterness and our war has been to a remarkable extent free from any racial hatred.

If we want to retain the freedom which we have won, it is necessary that we should equip ourselves to run the affairs of our country in a most efficient manner. Ours is a country with great natural resources. But unhappily to-day it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In spite of the fact that agriculture is our main industry, we are deficit in our food production. We have to rely upon foreign countries to feed us. We are underclothed and for many of our necessities in life we have to depend upon imports from foreign countries. Unless we harness the natural resources of the country and make our country self-sufficient, our attainment of freedom will be absolutely useless.

Till now ours has been a fighting programme, a programme to drive the foreigner out and win our political independence. We should realize that by the elimination of the foreign rule, we have only removed the obstacles which stood in the way of our country's progress. After the attainment of freedom we have to change our entire outlook and train ourselves to the task of the administration of the country so that the entire people of our country may be uplifted socially, educationally and economically. Unless the common man in this country is well clothed, fed and housed, our attainment of political freedom will have no meaning. The real freedom can come only when poverty and ignorance are driven out of our country. The strong should not oppress the weak but try to elevate him in all walks of life. The whole country is in a state of chaos at present. The effects of the

(*Continued on page* 26)

Check Exploitation

We are very happy in celebrating the attainment of Independence and we pay our homage to those martyrs who have toiled and sacrificed in the cause of freedom for this country. Let us not however forget the real objective of those great architects of freedom. The Swaraj for which the Congress wrought was the power to ameliorate the conditions of the masses of India. We shall have to be vigilant in preventing and checking all kinds of exploitation. We have to guard ourselves against exploitation not only by the vested interests but also by self-seekers who would try to capture power for themselves by mere slogans. We should understand our disease and the remedy and we should realize the responsibility that has devolved on us for solving our own difficulties. Let us resolve that we shall never miss our objective of securing the maximum happiness of the people.

—M. BHAKTAVATSALAM.

General Amnesty to Mark Independence Day

In connection with the celebration of the Independence Day on 15th August 1947, the Government granted the following concessions to prisoners who were confined in the jails of this Province :—

Sentence of death.—The sentence of death passed on prisoners who were awaiting execution has been commuted to one of transportation for life.

Prisoners who have Served 10 years in Jail

All prisoners who have served a period of 10 years of their sentence inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released.

Prohibition Prisoners

Premature release.—All prisoners who have been convicted for offences under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, and have served one-fourth of their sentence inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released, on giving a written undertaking that if they are convicted again for an offence under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, within a period of six months from the date of their release, they will serve the unexpired portion of their sentence.

Special remission.—Prisoners who have been convicted for offences under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, but who have not served one-fourth of their sentence, inclusive of remission under the existing rules, on 15th August 1947 and are not therefore eligible for release under the paragraph above will be given a special remission of 15 days.

NOTE.—The order in paragraphs above does not apply to those who have been convicted under the Madras Prohibition Act as also for offences under the I.P.C. and other laws. They come under the other categories mentioned below.

Other Prisoners

Premature release.—Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment up to a term of 10 years, who have served half their sentence inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released.

Prisoners sentenced to terms of imprisonment of more than 10 years or transportation for life who have served a term of at least five years, inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released.

NOTE.—The order of release of prisoners sanctioned in paragraphs above does not apply to

(1) habitual criminals ;

(2) prisoners detained in jail under sections 106, 107, 108, 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code ;

(3) (*a*) prisoners convicted of offences under Chapters IX, X and XI of the Indian Penal Code ;

(*b*) prisoners convicted of robbery, dacoity, assault or criminal force on a woman with an intent to outrage her modesty, offences under sections 359 to 377 of the Indian Penal Code ; extorting confession and abetments and attempts to commit offences mentioned above ; and

(*c*) prisoners convicted of murder or are attempt to commit murder or abetment of murder.

Special remission.—All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment up to a term of three months or less who have not served half their sentence on 15th August 1947 have been granted special remission of half their sentence.

All prisoners who have been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of more than three months but not more than one year have been given a special remission of one-fourth of their sentence and in no case less than 45 days.

All prisoners who have been sentenced to imprisonment for a term above one year have been given a special remission of two months per year to the sentence imposed.

In all the above cases—

(1) a sentence in default of payment of fine should be deemed to be a substantive sentence ; and

(2) half year or six months or more will be counted as one year.

The orders in the previous paragraphs will not apply to the following classes of prisoners :—

(1) Prisoners who have been convicted under section 376, I.P.C. (Rape) ;

(2) State prisoners and internees ;

(3) Civil prisoners ;

(4) Convicts convicted by Courts in Indian States or other Provinces ;

(5) Military convicts who are still subject to the Indian Army Act ; and

(6) Convicts on prosecutions ordered by the Government of India.

Prisoners who, on completion of their term in the Madras jails, are due to be sent to an Indian State or other Province and who are released under this order should be sent forthwith to serve their sentence in such State or Province.

Habitual convicts.—The release ordered, or the special remission granted to prisoners who are certified as habitual convicts fit for confinement in the Special jails at Salem and Vizagapatam with reference to rule 544 of the rules in the Madras Prison and Reformatory Manual, Volume III, will be subject to the condition that after their release, the prisoners should report themselves to the nearest police station or out-post once a fortnight for the period of their unexpired portion of the sentence or for the period of the special remission granted to them, as the case may be.

Rules 312, 323 and 327 of the rules in the Madras Prison and Reformatory Manual, Volume II, will be deemed to have been relaxed to the extent necessary in giving effect to the above orders.

Borstal Schools

Premature release.—Inmates who have an unexpired portion of six months or below of their detention on 15th August 1947 have been released on that date on the usual condition of good behaviour.

Special remission.—Other inmates who are ineligible for discharge under the above paragraph have been granted a special remission of three months of their period of detention.

Certified Schools

Pupils in Certified Schools who have completed two years of detention have been discharged from the schools on 15th August 1947. In the case of the remaining pupils, the date of discharge has been advanced in each case by a period calculated at the rate of two months for each year in the period for which he has been ordered to be detained.

All Detenus Released

The Government have released, in connection with the Independence Day Celebrations, all persons detained under the Maintenance of Public Order

Act. They have also released detenus who were convicted for offences not involving violence, such as Mr. K. Anandan Nambiar and Mr. A. K. Gopalan, the unexpired portion of their sentences being remitted. All pending warrants for arrest of persons issued under the Maintenance of Public Order Act have been or will be withdrawn. Certain cases pending under Section 107, Cr.P.C., involving Communists have been ordered to be stayed and the Government are calling for the papers in these cases to decide whether they should be proceeded with further.

The Government have also released those detained in connection with the recent B. and C. Mills' strike as also those who are undergoing sentences of imprisonment.

In ordering the general release of the detenus the Government wish to emphasise that this is being done solely in view of the "Independence Day" celebrations. They also take the opportunity to warn all concerned that the Government will not hesitate to act under the Maintenance of Public Order Act and take stringent measures, should there be recrudescence of trouble.

Muslims in Indian Union

By Dr. SYED MAHUMED, Minister for Development, Bihar

Now that the partition of India into the Dominions of the Indian Union and of Pakistan is a settled fact, it is time that the Muslims of the Indian Union should pause and consider what course they should adopt in the present political context. I do not here propose to enter into a controversy over the wisdom or otherwise of partitioning India. Time alone can show how far this step will be conducive to the common good of India in general and to the Muslims in particular. Personally I believe that overriding economic and other interests of the mass of people, irrespective of communities, will in the long run restore the indivisibility of India. Although the situation is, at the present moment, further complicated by the attitude taken up by some of the Princes, I have no doubt that the Congress, as representing the Indian Union, will play a most careful and states-man like role and hasten the consummation of the ideal in the coming years of our independence.

Change in outlook needed

Now that Pakistan is an accomplished fact, there is no justification whatsoever for continuing the outlook which shaped the political activities of the Muslim League so far. Is it not desirable now that the Muslims in the Indian Union should change their outlook and re-orient their policy by taking deep and abiding interest in the Province they live in and help in ushering in a new economic order ?

If past experience be a guide, I would unhesitatingly say that communal weightages and reservations have proved but poor aids to their healthy growth and development. On the other hand these special privileges have caused heart-burning and resentment in the minds of other communities without enhancing the self-respect of the Muslims themselves. It needs scarcely be added that no nation or community can thrive on props like these which sap its vitality, initiative and self-reliance rather than stimulate them. This was the view held by some of us all along, and in the changed conditions of to-day it has become all the more vital and important. I would, therefore, ask my co religionists in all earnestness not to look for those special privileges and concessions but to take their stand on merit alone. It is possible that a community which has been used to concessions may suffer for a short time, when it has to enter the field of open competition but we should be prepared to put up with this temporary handicap, for in the long run this will add materially to our efficiency and vitality. Let the Muslims participate fully in the civic, economic and social life of their respective Provinces and make the other communities feel by their action that they are second to none in promoting plans for the common welfare.

Separate Electorates

In this new context separate electorates will have no meaning and will rather be a great handicap instead of a help in enabling the Muslim community to rise to the full height of its stature. Should the Muslims remain satisfied with the usual reservations and weightages in seats for them in the legislatures and local bodies ? Do not these special privileges perpetuate their minority position with all its attendant handicaps ? Are these not veritable apples of discord causing endless jealousies and squables among the Muslims preventing their identifying themselves completely and unreservedly with the interests of their respective provinces and thereby win the goodwill and confidence of all and stand the chance of securing greater and effective representation through joint electorate and free competition ? Above all what is wanted most is a healthy change in the mental attitude of the two communities so that mutual trust and confidence may develop. Giving up these concessions and reservations of our own accord will, I am sure, contribute to the desired change in the attitude. This will also furnish a practical proof of our desire to identify ourselves with the interest of the Indian Union. It is far more desirable for a Muslim or a Hindu to be elected on the support of both the Hindus and Muslims as it gives him a real representative character which will add strength to him and make his voice more effective. This forms the basis of the cardinal principle underlying the formula enunciated by the late lamented Maulana Muhammad Ali. Having regard to the existing gulf between the two communities, a practical solution is a modified form of joint electorate on the lines of Maulana Muhammad Ali's formula which insists on 25 per cent of the votes of the other community for election. It is not a concession to Muslims but it is needed most in the large interests of the country as it will strengthen the bond of unity.

Safeguard for Muslims

There is, however, ample room for building up an organization of Muslims to safeguard and promote their social and religious matters. This will offer a common platform to all the Muslims.

For months past I have been giving my most anxious thoughts to these problems and I feel it is my duty now to place my views before the country. It is my earnest hope that the Musalmans in the Indian Union will give their most serious consideration to the problems facing us on the correct solution of which rests our future. Time is moving fast and the present and future of our people demand prompt action.

Pakistan and Provincial Autonomy

By K. SANTHANAM

How has Pakistan affected provincial autonomy ? From the statements of some leaders, an impression has been created that the position has altered to the disadvantage of provincial autonomy as contemplated in the Cabinet Mission plan of May 16, 1946. It is necessary to examine how far this is true.

Paragraph 15 of the Cabinet Mission statement says : " (1) There should be a Union of India comprising both British India and the States which should deal with Foreign Affairs, Defence, Communications, and should have the powers necessary to raise the finances required for the above subjects......(3) All subjects other than the Union subjects and all residuary powers should vest in the provinces. " If these two clauses stood alone, it will have to be admitted that the provinces would be autonomous under that plan to a degree far greater than that contemplated in the reports of the Provincial Constitution Committee, the Union Constitution Committee and the Union Powers Committee of the Constituent Assembly. I would, however, point out to those who may not have studied the documents that the list of subjects proposed for the Union Centre by the first report of the Union Powers Committee drawn up in conformity with the Cabinet Mission plan is practically identical with the later list drawn up by the same Committee. The only material difference is in the concurrent list which, for obvious reasons, the Committee did not feel necessary to draw in relation to that plan.

The plan of May 16, 1946 did not consist merely of a Central Government with the four classes of subjects indicated and the provinces. It imposed a group constitution between provincial autonomy and the federal Centre. If this plan had come into operation, there is no doubt at all that the groups would have had to appropriate some of the subjects allotted to the provinces under the Government of India Act of 1935, with the result there would have been less provincial autonomy than is now likely to be the case. Even administratively, the group Government would have been much closer and consequently more oppressive than a Central Government consisting of many units including the Indian States is ever likely to be. I have, therefore, no doubt that the disappearance of groups as a result of Pakistan has helped rather than hindered the cause of provincial autonomy.

Generally speaking, the distribution of powers under the new constitution is likely to be more or less on the lines of the Government of India Act of 1935. During my work as Secretary of the Sapru Committee, I had occasion to scrutinize the lists of the seventh schedule with a view to transferring as many subjects as possible from the federal and concurrent lists to the provincial list. The main objective of the Committee was to preserve the unity of India by yielding to the Muslim demands as far as it was legitimately possible. As the Muslims had frequently expressed themselves against a strong Centre, the Sapru Committee accepted the principle that only the minimum powers should be given to the Centre. Yet on a careful scrutiny it was found that very little change could be made in the federal, concurrent and provincial lists of the Government of India Act. I am convinced that these lists were settled after a most impartial and objective examination by constitutional experts of the highest standing in Great Britain and, as there was no imperialist interest involved, they are as equitable as can be conceived.

There will be two serious departures from the present distribution of powers in the new constitution. One is that residuary powers will be vested in the Centre. At present they are vested neither in the Centre nor in the provinces, but as any particular subject not classified comes up, the Governor-General is empowered to allot it to either according to necessity or public interest. Therefore, the proposal to vest the residuary subjects in the Centre certainly amounts to its strengthening in relation to the autonomous provinces. But the importance of residuary powers should not be exaggerated. Where the lists are as exhaustive as those now proposed, the scope for residuary powers is extremely limited.

In the concurrent list proposed by the Union Powers Committee, a novel item under the heading "Economic and Social Planning" has been added. This is so vague and all-embracing that, if it is not more closely defined, it will give the Centre almost unlimited powers to regulate the affairs of the units. It will be argued that, as the federal Centre will be composed of the representatives of the units, there is no danger of misuse of these wide powers. I do not quite agree with this view. It is the tendency of every Government to be jealous of its power and authority. The representatives of the units in a Central Legislature are generally more anxious to increase the power of the Centre than to safeguard the power of the unit. I should therefore suggest that in the matter of planning, industries, mineral development, electricity and other economic issues attempt should be made to demarcate the limits of Central and provincial powers as precisely as possible.

In the field of finance also the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 were not quite satisfactory. While it is true that defence is important and must not be starved, it should not be forgotten that we should have a progressive society worth defending. Unless the units are left with sufficient financial resources to enforce universal education, to promote health and to organize social security in a comprehensive manner, provincial autonomy cannot function properly. It may be that it is more convenient to levy and collect certain taxes by Central legislation and administration than by individual units. This should not mean that the Centre should appropriate all such taxes. Nor should the provinces be satisfied with a mere provision for subventions at the sweet will of the Central Government. The scope of Central subvention should be limited as in Australia to the relief of specially poor and needy units. The general principle should be that each province is able to function and expand satisfactorily with the funds which it collects directly from taxes assigned to the province or statutorily secured by the constitution. I hope that the representatives of Provincial Governments in the Constituent Assembly will see that these matters are equitably settled.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

No Special Cloth Ration

As the mill cloth rationing scheme has already been introduced in Madras City and the mufassal areas, no special rations of mill cloth will hereafter be issued to any particular community in connexion with any of its festivals.

Government Silk Filatures, Kollegal

There seems to be a misapprehension amongst certain sections of the public that after the War, Government have lost nearly Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs on account of the Silk Filatures at Kollegal. The Government wish to make it clear that far from incurring a loss, the Government have earned substantial amounts as profit from the working of the Filatures. During the year 1945-46 the profit earned amounted to Rs. 2,69,840 (Kollegal Silk Filatures Rs. 1,60,250 and Government Silk Filatures Rs. 1,09,590). The Kollegal Silk Filatures was amalgamated with the Government Silk Filatures with effect from August 15, 1946, and for the period from April 1, 1946 to August 15, 1946 the Kollegal Silk Filatures earned a profit of Rs. 1,58,070. It is estimated that the Government Silk Filature would have made a profit of about Rs. 80,000 during the year 1946-47.

Control over the price of Coconut

In view of the decontrol of the prices and movement of coconuts, copra and coconut-oil, the Government feel that the control over the price of coconut punnac in the Malabar and South Kanara districts is not necessary.

The Collectors of South Kanara and Malabar districts have accordingly been requested to issue suitable notifications rescinding the notifications issued by them fixing the prices of the coconut punnac in their districts. The control over the export of coconut punnac in Malabar district would, however, continue.

Control of Potatoes

The Government have issued an order controlling the movement and prices of potatoes within the province of Madras.

According to this order, no person shall, with effect from the date of publication of the order, transport potatoes by rail, road, canal or sea from one district to another within the Province of Madras, except under, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or by the Collector of the District or by any other officer specially authorized by the Commissioner or Collector in this behalf.

It is provided, however, that nothing contained in the above clause shall apply to the transport of potatoes not exceeding ½ railway maund by a *bonafide* traveller as part of his personal luggage for private consumption. The order also provides for the transport of potatoes as part of a consignment of vegetables not exceeding ¼ of a railway maund despatched by railway parcel.

The ceiling price for potatoes in the Nilgiris for sale to importing wholesale dealers in other districts of this province has been fixed at Rs. 33 per bag of 200 lb. The wholesale and retail prices of potatoes in the districts shall be fixed by the Collectors of the districts concerned. The retail price inclusive of any amount that may be charged as sales-tax, shall not, however, exceed 10 annas per viss.

If any of the provisions of this order are contravened, then, without prejudice to any other punishment to which the offender may be liable, the Court trying such contravention shall direct that any stocks of potatoes, together with the containers and coverings thereof, in respect of which the Court is satisfied that such provision has been contravened, shall be forfeited.

Reconstituted Milk for School Children

Towards the end of 1946, the Government wound up the scheme for the free distribution of milk reconstituted from separated milk powder to elementary school children in the deficit districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Salem, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Tinnevelly and Coimbatore, anticipating an improvement in the food situation. But the anticipation has not materialized and the Government have decided to revive the scheme for a period of four months from the date of its introduction in the above districts, except Chittoor and North Arcot. They have also decided to revive for a period of four months the scheme for the free distribution of milk powder to the Madras Corporation elementary school children, which was discontinued at the end of February 1947.

Consumers Beware

It has been discovered that a shortening product labelled "Vegetable product—Deer Brand" manufactured by the Snow White Products Company, Howrah, Calcutta, contains ingredients unsuitable for use in any food, drug or cosmetic product. The public are, therefore, warned against its use.

PREMIER'S BROADCAST

(*Continued from page 2*)

partition of the country are telling upon the resources of the country. So it is the duty of every Indian to re-dedicate himself to the service of the country so that our country may attain the position which it deserves in the Comity of Nations. The services in Madras are well-known for efficiency and integrity. But with independence their responsibility is greater. I appeal to them to consider themselves as the servants of the people and do their duty with a greater sense of devotion. It is their duty to weed out the few black-sheep among them. To the public I would appeal not to be indifferent but to realise their duties and responsibilities as citizens of a free country and work for the social, economic and spiritual uplift of the country.

On this occasion I cannot but refer to the food position in our Province. There is acute shortage of food and unless every agriculturist comes forward to help the Government by offereing to hand over every ounce of surplus stock of rice with him, it will be very difficult to tide over the crisis. And so, on this occasion, I appeal to all the people in our Province to surrender as much grain as possible as a sort of "yagna" on this day when we attain our independence. I pray to God that He should give us the strength to use our freedom for the good of humanity with courage, foresight and wisdom.

Vande Matharam !.

Inter-village Transport of Paddy

The Government of Madras have issued an order restricting the inter-village transport of stocks of paddy within the limits of East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

The order shall remain in force up to the end of September 1947.

It says that " no person other than a dealer appointed under the Procurement and Rural Rationing Schemes for the time being in force in the East and West Godavari districts, holding by himself on his own account or on account of or in partnership with any person any stock of paddy and rice or products thereof such as parched paddy, parched rice, beaten rice, rice flour, bran, shall transport such stocks from any place within the limits of any village in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari to any place in any other village in the said districts by road, rail, river or canal except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a permit issued by the Collector of the district concerned or by any officer of the Revenue Department authorized by him in this behalf."

If any person contravenes the provisions of the order, then, without prejudice to any other punishment to which he may be liable, any court trying such contravention shall order that any stocks of foodgrains and products thereof mentioned above, together with the containers and coverings thereof in respect of which the Court is satisfied that the said clause has been contravened, shall be forfeited.

The order shall not apply to the transport of foodgrains from or into areas in which rationing is enforced by statutory orders in the East and West Godavari districts which is governed by the provisions of the Madras Rationing Order, 1946, or to the transport to mills of paddy purchased for delivery at the mills, for which the producer holds a receipt issued by the Procurement Agent appointed by the Collector concerned.

Cost of Living Index

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of July 1947 :—

Vizagapatam	287·3
Ellore	351·4
Bellary	302·7
Cuddalore	289·1
Trichinopoly	298·2
Madura	290·8
Coimbatore	302·0
Calicut	354·4

Cut in Firewood Ration Continues

In the Press Note issued on 12th July 1947, the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the normal scale of firewood ration in the City of Madras for a period of one month from the third quarter of July 1947. As the supply position of firewood in the City still continues to be unsatisfactory, the Government have decided to continue the cut from the third quarter of August 1947 to 30th September 1947.

Education

Mother-tongue in S.S.L.C. Curriculum

In G.O. No. 806, Education, dated 22nd April 1947, the Government approved certain amendments to rule 4 (2) of the S.S.L.C. Scheme in regard to the study of the languages. The amendment has given rise to doubts, and representations have been received by the Government that it does not make provision for the study of Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic. It is pointed out that, while the rule before the amendment provided for the study of the mother tongue, the regional language or the classical languages, the amendment does not contain a similar provision, with consequential hardship to pupils.

The Government desire to make it clear in this connection that it was not their intention to preclude the study of Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic under the S.S.L.C. Scheme. They have therefore revised the amendment so as to include Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic or any other language previously studied by a pupil. The Government trust the revised amendment would resolve the doubts in this connection.

Muslim Students in Queen Mary's College for Women

In 1942 the Government directed that all eligible Muslim applicants should be admitted into the Queen Mary's College, Madras, and that any applicant considered unsuitable by the Principal should be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for his orders. This order has now been cancelled by Government in view of the fact that a separate college for Muslim women has been opened where 75 per cent of the seats are to be reserved for Muslim students.

Muslim Girls in B.A. Classes

The Government have kept in abeyance until further orders the scheme for opening B.A. classes in the College for Muslim Women, in view of the poor strength in these classes. The few students attending these classes at present will be transferred to Queen Mary's College for Women.

The question of reduction in the staff consequent upon this step is also under the consideration of the Government.

Overseas Scholarships, 1947–48

The Government of India have allotted 35 overseas scholarships to this Province. The Madras Government have selected the following 25 candidates for the award of these scholarships :—

Government servants eligible for study leave—

1. Mr. S. M. Krishnan.
2. „ M. V. Suryaprakasam.
3. „ J. D. Walter.
4. „ O. L. N. Reddi.

Others—

5. Mr. L. Venkatesan.
6. „ T. Venkataramana Reddy.
7. „ A. Madanagopal Menon.
8. „ K. M. A. Mohamed Sulaiman.
9. „ J. Sethumadhava Char.
10. „ R. P. Arthur.
11. Miss C. D. Kanthimathi.
12. Mr. C. Ganesamurti.
13. „ C. Srinivasan.
14. „ Y. Sreeramulu.
15. „ H. S. S. Lawrence.
16. „ V. S. Ramachandran.
17. „ M. Devidas Menon.

18. Dr. K. Venkateswarlu.
19. Mr. C. Venkatesan.
20. „ C. Shrinivasa Ballal.
21. „ D. Venkateswara Rao.
22. „ E. C. Chandrasekharan.
23. „ S. H. Mahadevan.
24. „ M. Venkata Rao.
25. „ T. V. Balakrishnan.

The selection of candidates for the award of the following four scholarships is under consideration :—

1. "Educational Administration with specialization in various aspects, e.g., recreation and social activities and juvenile employment.

2. Chemical Engineering.

3. Civil Engineering—Irrigation—Constructional methods with special reference to irrigation structures.

4. Industrial and Applied Chemistry—Tanning, Currying and Leather Technology."

The remaining six scholarships will not be awarded.

Development

Co-operative Advisory Council

The Government have constituted an Advisory Council called "The Madras Provincial Co-operative Advisory Council" with the following members :—

The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Co-operation, Chairman; the Registrar of Co-operative Societies; The President, Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank, Madras; The President, Madras Provincial Co-operative Union, Madras; Rao Bahadur Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, M.A., Ph.D., Principal, Pachaiappa's College, Madras; Sri P. L. Narasimha Raju, M.L.A., President, Co-operative Central Bank, Vizianagram; Sri Rao Bahadur V. K. Eradi, B.A., B.L., President, Malabar Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Calicut.

The term of office of the last mentioned three non-official gentlemen will be two years. If and when the Presidents of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank and the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union happen to be one and the same person, another non-official co-operator will be appointed to the Council. The Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies will act as Secretary to the Council.

The Council will be a purely Advisory Body and will advise on any matter or scheme referred to it by the Registrar or the Government. It may call for information from the Registrar or the Government and take the initiative in the formulation of new plans or policies in the development of the co-operative movement and suggest new policies and new schemes. The Council will meet once a quarter or oftener if necessary. The Council may invite the Heads of Departments and other officers and office-bearers or representatives of the Co-operative institutions to attend its meetings whenever required. The headquarters of the Council will be in Madras.

Application for Pipes

At present applications for pipes for the categories mentioned below are certified by the Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department, regarding the essentiality of demands and forwarded to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, for issue of permits :—

(1) For the manufacture of Tube-well strainers and sinking of tubewells; (2) Boiler tubes; (3) Municipalities, District and Local Boards; (4) Communications and Buildings (Provincial); (5) Public utility concerns; and (6) Industries, Firms and others not included in any of the above categories.

Applications for pipes for domestic demands are certified by Collectors up to 200 feet for any one demand. The powers of the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, have since been transferred to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department.

The Government of India have decided that, from 1st July 1947 steel pipes, tubes and fittings for the categories (1) and (3) to (6) mentioned above will be released in this province against permits to be issued by the Provincial Steel Controller, viz., Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, on approved stockists. A quota of 74,000 feet of pipes and tubes with corresponding fittings has been allotted to this province for III quarter of 1947 to be supplied by the Madras Circle Pipe Dealers' Association, 27, Linghi Chetty Street, Madras. The Government have accordingly directed that the Provincial Steel Controller, shall, in future, issue permits for pipes for categories mentioned above on receipt of applications in the prescribed form duly certified by the Advisory Authority, viz., Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department, as to the essentiality of the demands. Applications for Boiler tubes will however be continued to be sent to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, as at present.

The Heads of Departments, the Special Officers of the District Boards, Commissioners of Municipalities and Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, shall, hereafter submit applications for pipes required by them for the categories mentioned above to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department, through the Administrative departments of the Secretariat concerned, who will scrutinise and forward the applications to Development Department with their remarks. Applications after being certified will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller, as the case may be, for issue of permits.

The Collectors are requested to forward all applications certified by them for domestic demands direct to the Director of Industries and Commerce. They are also requested to see that only extremely essential cases are sent, limiting the demands to the bare minimum in each case.

Applications for pipes for non-Government public utility concerns and industries, firms and others not mentioned in any of the categories referred to above shall be submitted to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department. They will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller, as the case may be, for issue of permits after being certified.

P.C.C. Societies: Enquiry Committee

The Government have nominated Rao Bahadur J. C. Ryan, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, as a member of the Committee constituted to enquire into the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Northern Circars districts, in the place of Mr. N. S. Aurnachalam, I.C.S.

Labourers in the Tungabhadra Project Area

In May last, Government received a representation that the conditions of labour in the Tungabhadra Project area left much to be desired and needed immediate looking into. The representation was made with special reference to the evacuee labour imported into that area from Vizagapatam. Approximately, 1,700 labourers were taken from Vizagapatam to Hospet for work in connection with the Tungabhadra Project. These labourers had to be taken in batches in quick succession in the course of April 1947 and naturally it was not possible to make sufficient advance arrangements for their settling down in the project area. Mention was made of the dearth of hutting accommodation, lack of facilities for the purchase of rationed foodstuffs, and unsatisfactory medical facilities. In the nature of things these drawbacks were inevitable to some extent, but conditions were not so bad as they were made to appear. Transport of a considerable labour force from one area to another generally entails difficulties and conditions may not be very satisfactory from the *very* beginning. Government have, however, through their local officers given adequate attention to this matter, and they are satisfied that everything possible has been done and is being done to make the lot of the labourers as good as local conditions permit.

As regards hutting accommodation, 600 quarters are under construction and of these 400 have been already completed and occupied. These are spacious, roomy and hygienic. The plinth area is 195 square feet for each quarter and the cost ranges from Rs. 450 to Rs. 850. Rations supplied are 16 ounces per adult per day under the special sanction of the Government. There is at present no grievance whatsoever as regards the supply or distribution of the rations. As regards medical facilities, a Subdivisional Officer's quarters has been temporarily converted into an in-patient ward. Another in-patient ward is also nearing completion. A Special Deputy Collector with the necessary medical and revenue staff has also been appointed to look after the welfare of the labourers.

In this connection, Government's attention has been drawn to a newspaper article in which reference was made to 20,000 labourers in the Project area being subjected to a number of hardships. Inadequate accommodation, insufficient ration and low wages are some of the points made in the article. Government have instituted a detailed enquiry into the matter and find that the article was exaggerated out of all proportions. The total number of labourers working in the area is about 4,000 of whom 2,200 were recruited departmentally. These 2,200 labourers, besides 300 or 400 contractors' labourers are residing in the Camp area. They are now comfortably accommodated. The wages paid are more than those paid elsewhere in the Presidency except probably in the industrial centres. No unskilled male labourer gets less than a rupee per day. All unskilled recruited male labourers get a minimum wage of Re. 1-2-0 per head and the skilled labourer gets Rs. 2 per day. Masons and carpenters are paid Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3 per day. The wages are quite attractive. Periodical healthy entertainments are provided for labourers by the organization set up by the Government for the purpose.

At a time when increased production is all-important, Government deprecate the spread of alarmist reports, which are bound to have an unsettling effect on the labour force in this province.

Re-organization of Industrial Museums

The Government in their G.O. No. 1256, dated 22nd March 1947, have sanctioned funds for the reorganization of the District Industrial and Commercial Museums.

As a part of the reorganization scheme, it has been proposed to establish Sales Emporiums in all museums, in addition to the display of exhibits of the several industries of the Province.

Emporiums of this kind would foster the development of industries by bringing the manufactured goods to the notice of the public.

It is hoped that all the industrialists of the Province would avail themselves of this means of publicity for their goods and make the scheme a thorough success.

Firka Development

The Demonstration and Training Units in the industries shown below have been started in the following firkas :—

	Name of industry.	*Name of firka.*
1	Blacksmithy ..	Tellicherry.
2	Woodwork ..	Do.
3	Pottery	Do.
4	Hand-made paper ..	Musiri.
5	Leather goods manufacture.	Dendulur.
6	Blacksmithy ..	Musiri.
7	Coir goods	Do.
8	Light metal casting.	Do.

Trade Dispute

A trade dispute arose between the workers and management of the Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Limited, Ellore, in respect of certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, for adjudication, under the Defence of India Rules. After enquiry the adjudicator has submitted his award. The following are the recommendations of the adjudicator :—

(1) The present basic scales of wages of all the categories of workers should be raised by twelve and a half per cent. The enhanced wages should be paid from 1st April 1947.

(2) The workers will be entitled to a dearness allowance of nine annas per day instead of seven annas a day now paid. The enhanced dearness allowance should be paid with effect from 1st April 1947.

(3) All workers who were in service in 1946 and who were on the rolls of the mills on 26th March 1947 will be entitled to a bonus of one month's wages inclusive of dearness allowance then prevailing. Those workers who were absent for more than sixty days in the year excluding recognized leave days will not be entitled to the bonus. The bonus will be proportionate to the length of service in the year 1946, i.e., at the rate of one month's average wage for twelve months' service. The bonus must be paid to all workers irrespective of their character and should be paid within two months of the acceptance of the award by the Government.

(4) The workers will not be entitled to any additional efficiency or production bonus.

(5) A provident fund should be instituted for the benefit of the workers. A draft scheme should be prepared within three months from the publication of the award and sent to the workers' representative for comment and opinion. After mutual discussion and settlement and with the good offices of the Commissioner of Labour the fund should start working from the beginning of the year 1948.

(6) In addition to the existing leave of thirteen days on full pay, the workers should be allowed leave with wages for seven more days. The management should also provide for the grant of leave on loss of pay for a maximum period of ten days in the year.

(7) The workers will not be entitled to any house rent allowance.

(8) The two workers, G. Satyanarayana and K. Nookaraju were properly dismissed and cannot be reinstated.

Industrial Dispute

An industrial dispute arose in May 1937 between the workers and management of the Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Limited, Ellore, consequent on the dismissal of eleven workers. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its award and recommends that the dismissal of Thelu Appalaswamy was proper but that the other ten workers should be reinstated. These ten workers will not be entitled to wages for the period of their absence until they join duty. They will however be entitled to bonus for the year 1946 if they are otherwise entitled to it.

Securing Army surplus materials for civil departments

Various materials lying in the Army Engineering Stores Parks and Depots have been declared surplus to Army requirements and the Directorate of Disposals, Government of India, has taken up clearing of these Parks by selling such materials in public auctions.

Many of the materials contained in the Parks, e.g.:

Iron and steel of the controlled categories,
Pipes of various materials and pipe fittings,
Sanitary fittings,
Door and window fittings,
Asbestos cement roofing materials,
Electrical goods, etc.,

are useful for the various schemes of the Provincial Government—buildings, irrigation, highways, electricity, co-operative, housing, etc. Most of these materials are now in short supply in the market and several development projects are held up for want of such materials. With a view to secure these materials for use on urgent works in progress and to prevent the useful materials falling into the hands of private traders who might unduly inflate the price, the Madras Government indicated their interest in acquiring useful materials and the Government of India agreed to transfer the materials to the Provincial Government at values to be fixed by negotiation. In the meantime, auction sales are kept in abeyance in respect of materials which are the subject of these negotiations and the most urgent demands of the Provincial Government have also been permitted to be drawn from the surplus stocks, pending the results of price negotiations.

The Parks also contain other materials acquired for special military purposes which cannot be used by the Civil Departments in their present form or at their high book values.

The Government of India are anxious to dispose of the materials in the Parks quickly and in their entirety so that their disposals organization might be closed down early.

While it may be desirable to secure as much of these materials as can be used within a reasonable limit of time on the various post-war reconstruction projects which are in progress or are likely to be started shortly, it is equally necessary to avoid taking over stocks at uneconomical rates or in quantities not likely to be usable within a reasonable period.

The Government of Madras have appointed a Special Officer of the rank of an Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department with the necessary staff under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (General), to inspect the stores, select useful items, price them at current market rates and indicate the order of usefulness of the materials for their acquisition. After examining these data, Government will decide on the most desirable terms of purchase, whether to purchase the stocks in their entirety, or only selected items in the Parks.

A report on the Arkonam Park is now with the Government. Immediately their general policy of purchase is settled, materials will be available for use on many urgent works now held up for want of such materials.

Reports on the Park at Avadi and Vizagapatam are under preparation.

The special staff will also attend to the selection of surplus plant and machinery and help all departments of Government in securing their requirements from the Army surplus stocks.

Agricultural Jamabandi

The Government consider that an agricultural jamabandi by the Agricultural Department will be the surest way of bringing the ryots and the department together for disposing of their grievances quickly. They have therefore directed that the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the District Agricultural Officers should conduct the jamabandi before the cultivation season, so that the ryots may express their needs in person to the Jamabandi Officer and get them redressed quickly where possible. If there are, say, eight taluks in a district, the Deputy Director of Agriculture can cover half and the District Agricultural Officer the other half. The Deputy Directors, it is expected, can cover all taluks at least once in three years. The Government feel that this method will go a long way to assure the agriculturists of the Government's interest in them and will also help to check whether the work of the Agricultural Demonstrators is genuine and whether they are in touch with the ryots and understand their needs and requirements as far as possible. The Government have decided that the jamabandi should be tried immediately in one Tamil district and one Telugu district.

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to submit a report to the Government after the close of the first jamabandi in all the taluks of the two selected districts to enable the Government to consider the question of extending it to other districts.

The Government have also sanctioned the employment of a large number of demonstration maistris. It is essential that these maistris should render useful services to the people. The District Agricultural Officers should give a certificate annually that the maistris are residing in their headquarters.

Transport

Madras Board of Transport

The Government have directed that the Madras Board of Transport constituted in Government Order dated 14th March 1947, will start functioning with the following non-official representatives nominated by the States, the railways and several trade interests in this Province. A representative from Hyderabad State will be included if and when the latter's nomination is received. The non-official members now nominated are :—

(1) Sri N. Ramamurti, Director of Transport, representing Travancore Government.

(2) Sri R. Ramakrishna, Secretary to Government, Railway and Electrical Departments, nominated by the Mysore Government.

(3) Sri Rao Bahadur V. Bhujanga Rao, Superintendent of Police, Pudukottah State.

(4) The Commissioner of Police, Cochin State, representative of the Cochin State.

(5) Lt.-Col. A. M. Johnstone, representative of the Madras Motor Vehicles and Allied Merchants' Association.

(6) Mr. E. A. Watson, Chairman of the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association, Limited.

(7) Mr. M. M. Syed Md. Rowther, Agent of Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, representing Coastal Shipping Agents.

(8) Sri B. K. N. Rao, M.B.E., Branch Manager, Air India, Limited, Madras, representing airways of the Province.

(9) Mr. R. J. J. Perry, Chief Commercial Manager, the M. & S. M. Railway, representing the M. & S. M. Railway.

(10) Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds, General Manager, the S.I. Railway, representing the S.I. Railway.

The non-official members will serve on the Board for a period of two years in the first instance.

The Government did not consider that there shoud be a representative of manufacturing and mercantile interests on the Board as proposed by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce as it is open to the Board to co-opt at its option representatives of any interest and also to invite any person to be present at its meetings to help in taking decisions.

Bonus to Transport Services

In February 1947 the Government constituted a Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act to go into all problems connected with the working conditions of labour in Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, etc., in the Province. As the final report was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government referred the question of payment of interim relief to the workers in Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator recommended certain scales of relief and his recommendations were accepted by Government and enforced on the parties. The Court of Enquiry has now submitted an interim report in which it recommends that, in addition to the interim relief already awarded by the adjudicator, the workers in Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops shall be paid bonus as detailed below :—

All individual operators and companies who have not paid any bonus to their workers during the last twelve months should pay a bonus of one month's basic wages to the workers who have completed twelve months' service on 30th June 1947 and a bonus of fifteen days' wages to the workers who have completed six months' service but less than twelve months on that date.

The Government commend the recommendation to the parties and trust that both parties will abide by it.

Local Boards

Hindu Mahasabha : Election Colour

In the press communique, dated 13th December 1946, it was notified that the orange colour has been allotted to candidates standing on behalf of the Hindu Mahasabha for the ensuing elections to local bodies.

In the press communique, dated 7th June 1947 it was announced that candidates standing on behalf of the Tamilnad Provincial Hindu Mahasabha should produce as their credentials, certificates from Sri K. Sivanandhi Thevar, General Secretary of the Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, Madura. The President of the Andhra Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, Bezwada, Sri Pandrangi Kesava Rao, B.A., B.L., proposes to issue certificates to serve as the credentials of the official candidates at the coming elections to municipal councils and local boards, standing on behalf of the Andhra Provincial Hindu Mahasabha. The official candidates of the Hindu Mahasabha in the Telugu-speaking areas should produce as their credentials, certificates from Sri Pandrangi Kesava Rao, President of the Andhra Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, Bezwada.

Village Headmen and Elections

The Government have directed that village headmen who desire to stand for election and serve as members of any District Board, Panchayat Board of Municipal Council, including the presidentship and vice-presidentship of any of these bodies, should take leave while standing for election and during the period of their membership of the local body, if elected.

Programme for Municipal Elections

It has been decided to hold elections to municipal councils in the months of August and September 1947. The following is the programme of dates.

Publication of election notice—
14th August 1947.
Receipt of nominations—
25th, 26th and 27th August 1947.
Scrutiny of nominations—
28th August 1947.
Publication of valid nominations :
If no appeal—
3rd September 1947.
In the event of appeal—
9th September 1947.
Poll—29th September 1947.
Counting—30th September 1947.

It may not however be possible, in the case of certain municipal councils to adhere to the above schedule owing to local circumstances.

Bonus to Local Board Employees

When orders were issued by Government revising the scales of pay of their non-gazetted servants, Government permitted the more senior among them to count towards their pay in the revised scales their past service, so that they may get a substantial benefit in the matter of their pay. This, however, was not allowed in the case of municipal

(*Continued on page* 13)

Miscellaneous

Bonus for A.R.P. Men

A large number of applications have been received by the Madras Government from ex-A.R.P. personnel claiming bonus with reference to the Press Note issued by the Defence Department of the Government of India in June 1947. The bonus in question is apparently being paid by the Defence Department to personnel who were in the Defence Services, and not to personnel in Civil Defence or A.R.P. Services. No bonus has been sanctioned for payment to ex-A.R.P. personnel.

Short Course in Paper Making

The Government have approved the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction that a short training course in paper making may be conducted in eight selected centres, the training being confined to teachers employed in schools under local bodies.

Indian Pensioners of Macao Police Force

In future Indian pensioners of the Macao Police Force resident in India must produce for inspection there every two months properly certified copies of life certificates with photographs attached.

Macao is a Portuguese Colony on the coast of South China on the West side of the entrance to the Canton river and 35 miles distant from Hong Kong Island.

Separation of Judiciary

In connection with the implementation of the scheme submitted by the Sub-Committee for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, the Government have now decided that the schemes should first be examined by a Cabinet Committee consisting of the following personnel: The Hon. Dr. P. Subbaroyan, Minister for Home, Chairman, the Hon. Mr. M. Bhakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, the Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, the Hon. Mr. K. Madhava Menon, Minister for Agriculture, as Members.

The Committee will be assisted by a Special Officer of the grade of District Judge, who will also be its Secretary.

It will be the duty of the Secretary of the Committee to examine the proposals contained in the report of the Sub-Committee as well as the comments thereon made by the High Court, the Madras Public Service Commission and the Board of Revenue and work out details for the consideration of the Cabinet Committee.

The Secretary's post will be for a period of six months.

Relief Granted

The Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,990 (rupees one thousand nine hundred and ninety only) for the alleviation of the distress caused by the fire accident in Perungalathur village, Chengam taluk, North Arcot district, on 30th June 1947.

The expenditure should be debited to "54. A. Famine Relief."

The action of the Board of Revenue in having authorized the Collector to incur the expenditure in anticipation of the sanction of the Government is approved.

National Savings Certificates

Subscriptions from the Province towards the National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 12th July 1947 amounts to Rs. 42,19,185. Tanjore continues to hold the first place with Rs. 8,33,660. Madras ranks second with Rs. 6,40,210 and West Godavari shoots up to the third place with Rs. 4,86,065.

Subscriptions from all over the province towards National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 28th June 1947 amounted to Rs. 36,55,525. Tanjore continues to take the first place with Rs. 8,15,090 and Madras comes second with Rs. 4,49,865.

Reconstitution of District Boards.

The Government have decided to postpone the date for the reconstitution of the following 23 District Boards from 1st August 1947 to 1st December 1947:—

Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Tinnevelly, Madura, Salem, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore, Chingleput, Anantapur, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara.

In a Government Order, dated 26th April 1947, 1st August 1947 was fixed as the date for the coming into office of the members newly elected to these District Boards at the ordinary elections. As election to these Boards have not yet been held, Government have decided to postpone this date to 1st December 1947. The Government further direct that the members newly elected to the District Boards mentioned above at the next ordinary elections shall come into office on the noon of 1st December 1947 instead of on the 1st August 1947.

Civil and Sub-Assistant Surgeons

The Government have had under consideration the proposals submitted by the Surgeon-General and the Medical Licentiate Associations regarding the unification of the cadres of Civil Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the grant of a uniform scale of pay to all officers. The Government have now decided that Civil Assistant Surgeons should be designated as Civil Assistant Surgeons, Class I, and that Sub-Assistant Surgeons, should be designated as Civil Assistant Surgeons, Class II, and remain non-gazetted, that promotion from Civil Assistant Surgeon, Class II to Civil Assistant Surgeon, Class I shall be treated as promotion to a selection cadre and be on the following conditions, namely; (1) fifteen years satisfactory service as Civil Assistant Surgeon, Class II, under Government service for Licentiates, and (2) not less than five years of service under Government for Medical Graduates.

They have also decided that the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons, Class I, in the King Institute, Guindy, and the Senior Assistant to the Chemical Examiner to Government be brought under the scheme of appointment of Supernumerary Civil Surgeons.

Pension to Political Sufferers

At present some Government servants who resigned their posts in Government service from 1921 onwards in response to the call of the Indian National Congress are drawing pensions of Rs. 5 or 6 or 8 per mensem. The Government have decided that on the attainment of Independence, the pensions of all such pensioners who are

now getting less than Rs. 20 per mensem would be raised to Rs. 20 per mensem with effect from 15th August 1947.

Europeans in India

Reports have reached the Government that there is an impression among certain sections of the public that after the transfer of power on August 15, 1947, there will be no Europeans in India. The Government wish to state that this is a mistaken impression. The fact is that, though a certain number of Europeans who are in Government service may retire or be released from service before or on August 15, 1947, other Europeans who are not so released from Government service or who are engaged in business or other walks of life in this country will continue to reside in India and to carry on their work as usual. The Government confidently expect that the most friendly relations will continue to subsist between Indians and Europeans who stay on in the country.

Work of the Employment Exchanges

Statistics relating to the work of Employment Exchanges during the past one year disclose a period of striking progress. The Employment Exchanges have been in operation from June 1946 and since then the number of men placed by the Exchanges all over India has increased to 14,861 in June 1947 from 6,428 in June 1946. Similarly the number of employers who have made use of the Exchanges rose from 2,579 in June 1946 to 3,527 in June 1947. These figures are significant as indicating the increasing popularity of the Employment Exchanges amongst both employers and the demobilised personnel in the brief span of a year. It may be recalled in this connection that the Exchanges worked under a number of handicaps during the period, and among these are included the usual initial difficulties incidental to a new born organization and the general unsettled and abnormal conditions which prevailed during the period.

Irrigation Wells

The present critical food situation requires an all-out effort to increase food production. The Government of Madras have taken measures to afford the maximum facilities to agriculturists to bring more land under cultivation and to increase the output of the land already under cultivation. In many districts loans are granted to ryots for deepening irrigation wells and for digging new wells for the purpose of growing food crops. Besides, certain concessions in the form of remission of assessment for the first three years are granted.

There is one excellent use to which these wells could be put, which now needs emphasis and publicity. It is recognized that water could be 'cultivated' just as land and if this were properly done it would yield as much food as the land. The ryot who seeks to grow more food on his land with water from the well, could at the same time grow fish in the well and reap a double harvest with very little extra labour. Fish is a valuable protein food of which there is not enough to meet the demand.

The irrigation wells have immense possibilities for increasing food production. There are at present innumerable wells in this Province. Quite a number of fish could thrive in these wells. If the well is rather narrow and deep, certain species of murrel *Verahl* and *Avuri* in Tamil) could be bred in them with advantage. In fact *Avuri* naturally occurs in many such wells; but with some systematic stocking a good crop of fish could be reaped. In wider wells, which are rather step-wells than draw-wells, other varieties of fish could be grown, particularly the Pearlspot (*Setha Kendai* in Tamil) which is a hardy fish very popular with fish-farmers. If the well has sufficient depth of water with fair algal growth, the quick-growing carp (*Catla*) could profitably be fattened in it. The digging of more irrigation wells would of course mean not only increased production from the land but also a corresponding increase in the fish production.

It is said that we are nearing the limit of the maximum possible cultivation of our lands. But only a small fraction of our waters is cultivated.

The Fisheries Section of the Department of Industries and Commerce would readily supply the required stock of fish and also give help and advice—*Madras Fisheries Information Bureau.*

(*Continued from page* 11)

and local board servants when the new scales were introduced in such of the municipalities and district boards as could afford to adopt the new scales, with a view to reducing the burden on local finances to that extent. But realizing the hardship that is caused to the more senior men by this, Government have now decided to grant the advance increments to employees of municipalities and district boards also as was done in the case of Government servants. The Government have also decided to permit the 30 municipal councils and 8 district boards which are unable to give effect to the revised scales of pay immediately, to grant to their employees, drawing a pay of Rs. 100 per mensem and less, a bonus equal to one month's pay. The Executive authorities of municipal councils and district boards have been instructed to disburse the bonus on or before the 14th August 1947.

INDEX NUMBER OF RURAL PRICES

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of July 1947 with the year ending 30th June 1936 as base or 100 were as follows for the several centres in the Province.

District.	Rural centre.	Rural price index.	Variation when compared with the index for the previous month.
Vizagapatam	Adivivaram	394	A fall of 1 point.
	Thettangi	370	A rise of 3 points.
West Godavari	Alamuru	367	A rise of 3 points.
Bellary	Madavaram	415	A rise of 1 point.
South Arcot	Puliyur	301	A rise of 2 points.
	Agaram	311	A rise of 1 point.
Trichinopoly	Thulayanatham	391	A rise of 7 points.
Madura	Eriodu	330	....
	Gokilapuram	354	A rise of 6 points.
Coimbatore	Kinathukadavu	353	A rise of 2 points.
Malabar	Koduvalli	421	A rise of 9 points.
Chingleput	Guduvancheri	340	A fall of 9 points.
	Kunnathur	325	A rise of 5 points.

Awards in Industrial Disputes

Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, on certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the Government referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, on the 24th June 1947. The District Magistrate, Vizagapatam, and the Commissioner of Labour have since reported that the workers have gone on strike on the 8th July 1947, that is, after the Government referred the dispute for adjudication. Any strike during the pendency of proceedings before a Tribunal and two months after the conclusion of such proceedings is illegal under section 23 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Now the Government have also prohibited the strike under section 10 (3) of the Act. The workers are expected to return to duty immediately.

Standard Vacuum Oil Co.

There was a dispute between the commercial staff and the management of the Standard Vacuum Oil Co., Limited, Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the dispute was referred to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report and has recommended that the clerical and service staff should be paid bonus. The present pension scheme, even if calculations are made according to the scale introduced in 1933, is much more beneficial than any provident fund. The basic pay of clerical staff is reasonable and not low. The minimum pay for service staff should be Rs. 21. Rules relating to the gratuity are more generous than in any other company. The amount of leave allowed to the employees is sufficient, as also the existing medical facilities. No increase in dearness allowance is recommended, and provision for travelling allowance during leave cannot be forced on the Company. No separate house rent allowance need be given. The discharge o fDhanakoti was not unjust.

The award will be made binding on the parties for a period of one year.

Burma-Shell Co.

There was a dispute between the staff and management of the Burma-Shell Co., Limited, Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its report and has recommended that the bearers are eligible for bonus and that a bonus of one month's wages for all employees is adequate. Bearers who elect to go to their villages after completing one year's service should not be considered as permanent. The strength of the bearers should be fixed at sixteen and the others eliminated and those who are eliminated need not be paid any gratuity. The minimum pay of Rs. 21 to the staff is adequate. No full time employee should be paid less than Rs. 21 and those who are now to be paid Rs. 21 should be paid with effect from 1st January 1947. It has been agreed that those who work on Sundays and holidays should be given substitute holidays. The office car drivers need not be paid overtime. Existing provision for leave in the case of service staff is adequate.

There is no justification for paying railway fare to Gurkha watchmen for visiting their native place once in two years as they are recruited at Madras. Train fare need not be paid to service staff while they go on leave as in the case of the clerical staff. House rent allowance need not be paid to clerical staff and service staff. The Labour Provident Fund system intended for labourers and service staff may be continued without any modification. Dearness allowance should not be taken into account when calculating bonus. The discharge of M. Ekambaram, watchman, was not improper or unjustifiable, but the company may give him one more chance if the Company's doctor certifies him to be keeping good health.

The award will be made binding on the parties for a period of one year.

Dispute in Cigar Factories

There was a dispute between the workers and management of the beedi and cigar factories in Mangalore, and other places in South Kanara district, at Tellicherry, Cannanore, Ponnai, Badagara, Calicut, Palghat and in Kottayam taluk of Malabar district. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, South Kanara, for adjudication. After enquiry, the adjudicator has submitted his report and recommended that the existing rates of wages for thousand beedies be increased by 1 anna, the wages for a bundle of twenty-five cigars be 10 pies, and that a bonus of one month's wages should be paid to both beedi and cigar workers. He has left to Government to fix the period for which bonus should be paid and the different scales of bonus to be paid according to service. The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator and direct that the increase in wages recommended should be given effect from 1st April 1947 and that the bonus recommended by him should be for the calendar years 1946 and 1947. As regards the rates of bonus to be paid the Government direct that workers with less than three months' service need not be paid any bonus, that the workers with a service of three months and more but less than six months be paid a bonus of one-fourth of a month's wages, that workers with a service of six months and more, but less than nine months be paid a bonus of half of a month's wages and that workers with a service of nine months and more be paid bonus of one month's wages.

The recommendations do not apply to the Kuyil Mark Beedi Factory, Tellicherry, as the rates of wages paid are already higher and as the factory is a temporary one. They do not also apply to the beedi factories in Palghat as the parties did not appear before the adjudicator.

Vummidi and Guruswami Chetty Co.

There was a dispute between the workers and management of Vummidi Ramiah Chetty and Guruswami Chetty & Co., Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication. After enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its report and has recommended that the closure of the factory was not mala fide as the management has reported that the price of silver and gold has reached its highest level and it would sustain loss if it continues its business. The management has also lost its trust in the workers and there has been a big drop in production. The management cannot therefore be compelled to open the factory but if the management

(*Continued on page 36*)

Hon'ble Mr. Kala Venkat Rao inaugurating the Madras Secretariat Services' Week Celebrations. Father Jerome D' Souza was one of the principal speakers.

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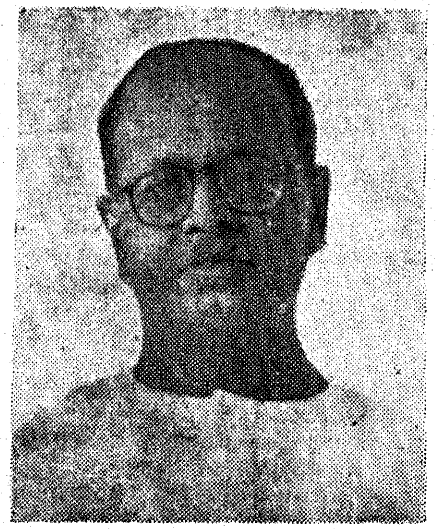
Hon'ble Mr. Baktavatsalam addressing the Association

Hon'ble Mr. Gopal Reddi, speaking at another meeting of the Association

Two New Colleges Opened: Education Minister's Inaugural Addresses

The following is the speech given by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, on the occasion of the opening of the Rajah Doraisingam College, Sivaganga.



"I have great pleasure in opening this College to-day. The other day, when we were considering the situation of Colleges in the various districts, we thought that Ramnad did not have any College, but, to the surprise of all of us in this year, all on a sudden three Colleges have come into existence—one here, another at Karaikudi, which I shall have the pleasure of opening this evening, and the third one at Virudunagar. I must congratulate the Rajah of Sivaganga on his magnificent gift which has made the existence of this College possible. Along with him I must congratulate also the generosity of others which has made the coming into existence of the other two Colleges also. The only two other districts in which there is no College of any kind are Ootacamund and Cuddapah. In Cuddapah, certain friends interested in higher education are making arrangements to start a College and I hope it will come into existence before the next College year.

You are aware that the Government has been taking up the problem of re-organization of secondary education. God willing, it is expected that the re-organized schemes of studies will come into effect from the next school year. On the eve of Independence of this great country, it is necessary that those who are in charge of education should have the vision and forethought to re-align our educational system so as to suit the coming needs of this great country. In view of these changes, it is necessary that we should recast the contents of the various courses of studies that we are having in schools and Colleges. Apart from courses of studies there is another much more difficult problem. The real training in schools and Colleges is not so much in the knowledge that you seek to give to the children who come to the portals of these institutions but the training for life that we must give them in these schools and Colleges. Man has to move with his family, with his community, with society at large, and has to play his part in the great country to which he belongs as well as in the world. If he is to play a proper part in all these spheres, it is necessary that we should give him the necessary training and practice in daily life which will enable him to face the problems of life as and when they occur. This is an essential aspect of education which our schools and Colleges must tackle.

I am told that one of the items in the curricula of eduction for girls in the Japanese Universities was to teach girls how to behave with their mothers-in-law as well as with their other relatives after marriage. One may smile at this but those, who know how many families are being broken, and the happiness of how many is being daily disturbed by want of this knowledge, will understand how essential these practical hints in life are. I mention this only by way of example to show that these practical things in life are perhaps more important and more useful in our lives than many books on theory which we may learn by-heart.

God willing, I hope the re-organization of our education in the various spheres will meet this need and equip our boys and girls to face the problems of life with courage, strength and nobility, so that all of them can make their own contribution in the building up of this great country.

While thanking the Rajah Sahib for starting this College, let me hope and pray that the College will have a long era of usefulness and the boys and girls of the College will also have a long era of service to the Motherland."

Re-organization of College Education

The following is the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, Government of Madras, on the occasion of the opening of the Alagappa College at Karaikudi on 11th July 1947.

I am very glad to be able to associate myself with the opening of the Alagappa College, Karaikudi. I must congratulate Dr. Alagappa Chettiar on his latest munificence in opening this College. I have known him only for a short time and I must appreciate his generosity, not only for what he has done to the two Universities and to this College, but for the future proposals that he has for the educational uplift in this Province.

We are moving fast. The world is changing and with it, we must also adjust to the changing conditions. No man or woman and no society or country can live and be effective unless it adjusts itself to the changing conditions of the environments within which it lives. Those who stop or falter will be thrown to the winds by nature and so it is absolutely essential for us that we must take stock of the existing and changing conditions in the life around us in the world and plan with vision for the future; and in so planning, nothing is more important than education: for education is mainly planning for the future. If we plan well today and infuse courage and strength in our children, then and then only we lay the foundations for a great and glorious future for this great country. And so, it is up to us who are in charge of education in the

(Continued on page 21)

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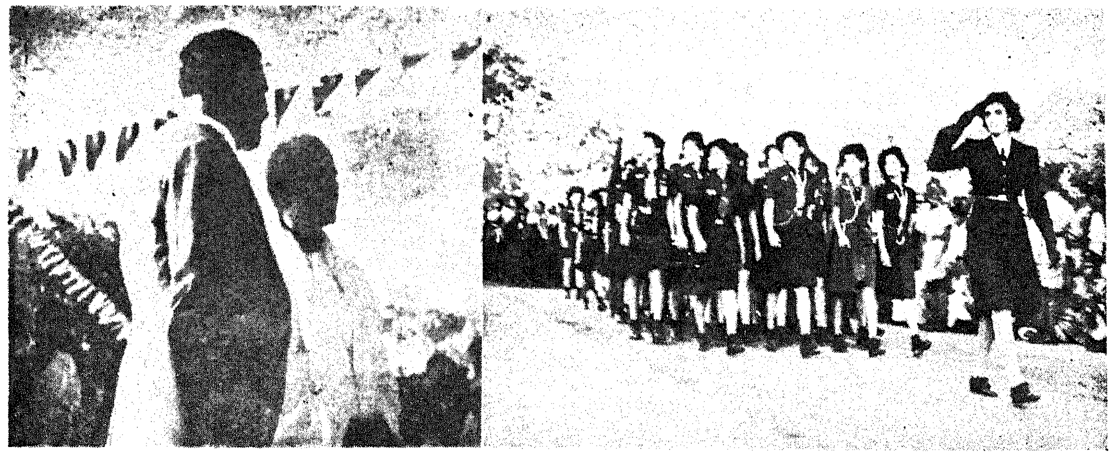
MADRAS

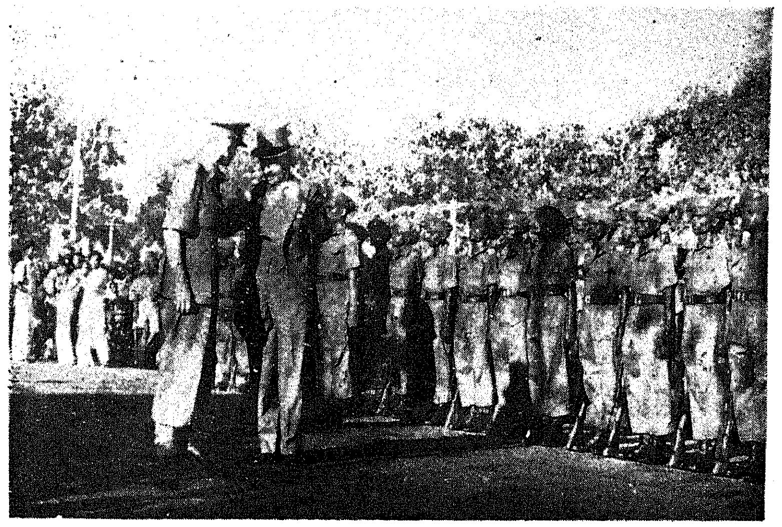
First Governor of Madras under the New Constitution, takes the Oath

CITY CELEBRATES THE DAWN OF FREEDOM



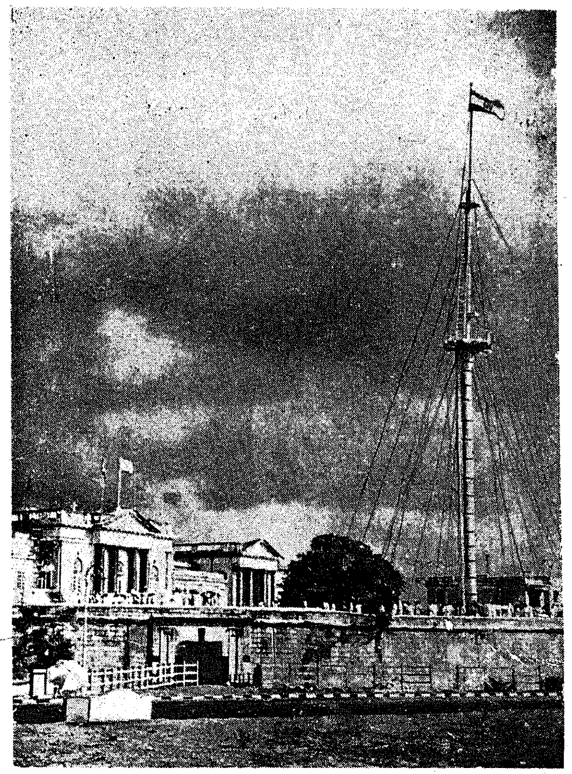
The Governor and the Premier watch the Girl guides marching along

His Excellency Salutes the National Flag

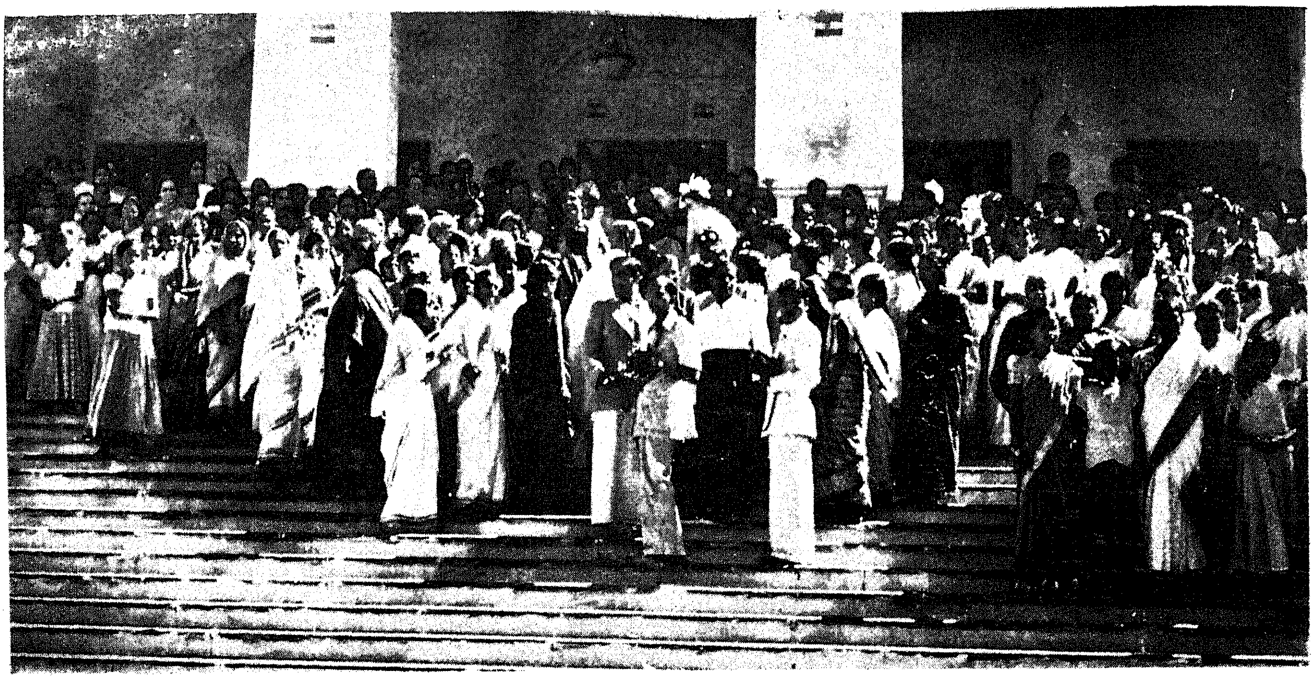


Governor inspects the Guard of Honour

The Governor's Body Guard Marches Past



For the first time in history, India's National Flag flew over Fort St. George, where for years the Union Jack had been flying



Ladies' Rally at the Banquetting Hall. Lady Nye is seen in the centre

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They march—to take their rightful place beneath the flag

(*Continued from page* 16)

country and who are interested in education in its various spheres, to take note of these facts and plan ahead with vision, strength and enthusiasm.

You are aware that the Government have taken up the matter of reorganization of Secondary Education. With that must also come the reorganization of College education to suit the needs of the times and the genius of our people. In the reorganization of College education, two things must be borne in mind.

One is about the medium of instruction. Many of the Universities in Northern India have already made their own regional language the medium of instruction. The regional language should be made the medium of instruction, not for any sentimental reasons, but for the fact that only through the regional language can education be effective and it cannot be so through a medium which our people do not normally understand. This will have the additional great purpose of bridging the existing gulf between the so-called educated and the uneducated classes of this country.

Secondly, we must provide in our Universities scope for higher knowledge in various branches of studies so that the country may produce men and women required for its various services. For many of these we had largely to depend upon foreigners till now, but that cannot continue any longer and it is necessary that we should provide in our own Universities for all our needs. In this, I must also mention the need for high-grade research in our own institutions. Our University education will have to be planned from these and other important aspects and I have no doubt that our Universities have a proper appreciation of all these facts and will make all attempts to meet these needs.

Education is costly and college education is indeed very costly. Such things as higher education in research, are much more costly. The Government have many limitations as you are aware, and with programmes such as Prohibition and the need for large-scale adjustments, the Provincial finance has greatly been strained. Any re-adjustment that must be made can at best be only gradual. It is now that we depend more than at any time upon the private munificence of merchants, industrialists, zamindars and other philanthropists in setting up these large institutions of science as well as research. The Government appreciate very much the coming forward of rich and well-to-do friends like Dr. Alagappa Chettiar and the Rajah of Sivaganga and would like to appeal to the other industrialists and rich persons in the various parts of this Province to emulate their example and set up educational institutions of various types throughout the Province.

I must also point out the need for books representing the higher knowledge in our various regional languages. Unless this need is satisfied, it will be impossible to raise the general level of the people and make it possible to impart higher knowledge in the regional languages. The Government are aware of this problem and would like to have the patriotic help and co-operation of all people interested in these matters.

God willing, let us build a great and glorious India. That can be done only on the solid foundations of intense knowledge and greater discipline and I will appeal to you and through you to all the men and women interested in the education of the Province to co-operate with the Government in every way possible and help them in achieving this great ideal.

Court of Enquiry

In February 1947, the Government appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to go into the conditions of labour in the Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, Engineering Firms and Type Foundries. The Government have since decided that one Court cannot deal with all the four industries and have therefore constituted a separate Court of Enquiry consisting of Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as its sole member to enquire into the conditions of labour in the Engineering Firms and Type Foundries in the Province. The Court will among other matters enquire into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour such as wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc. in these industries. As there are a large number of Engineering Firms and Type Foundries scattered throughout the Presidency, the Court is unable to send individual invitations to them and to workers' unions. Interested parties may therefore, make written representations to the Court of Enquiry for Engineering Workshops and Type Foundries at Block No. XVI, Fort St. George, Madras, so as to reach it on or before 5th September 1947.

Potato Production and Utilization

Central Research Institute to be set up

A proposal to set up a Central Potato Research Institute for the development of co-ordinated fundamental research on all aspects of potato production and utilization, including a Central seed-certifying station for seed supply to the Provinces, is now under examination by the Government of India.

The Central Organization will consist of (i) a main institute to be located probably in Bihar supported by three complementary research sub-stations in the hills in North India; (ii) three research sub-stations situated, one each in Bengal, Western U.P. and the Nilgiris and (iii) a seed organization for initial multiplication of improved seeds in a disease-free state and supply to the Provinces.

Improved Varieties

The main institute will be located in Bihar, as it is an important seed potato growing area, which exports more than 60 per cent of its produce as seed to other Provinces and represents typical conditions for potato growing.

The primary object of the seed certification organization will be to ensure that no diseased seed is used for potato growing. This will help in maintaining the purity of improved varieties. It is stated that certified seed is known to have given increased yields up to even 100 per cent, in many cases. In order that the high yielding potentialities of improved varieties be maintained, for a number of years, it is necessary to use certified seed.

The total annual potato production in India is about 49,000,000 maunds, the average yield per acre being 100 maunds as against 220 in the United Kingdom. The annual average potato imports in India are over 1,100,000 maunds valued at more than Rs. 33,00,000.

The possibilities of improving and popularising the potato crop in India lie in the direction of the evolution of higher yielding varieties for different climates and soils, the production of seed potatoes, the elimination of diseases which attack the crop in the field by producing disease-resistant varieties, and the improvement of seed storage so as to prevent loss by rot and insect pests.

Financial Relations between Centre and Provinces

Mr. Gopal Reddi Seeks Advice of Non-officials

At the conference of economists, publicists and public men convened by the Hon'ble Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister, and held in the Cabinet Room in the Secretariat on 11th August 1947, a number of suggestions were put forward regarding the adjustment of financial relations between the Union Centre and the Provincial Governments under the future constitution. After the Finance Minister delivered his address, a general discussion followed in which Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Mr. Md. Ismail, Mr. T. K. Doraiswami Ayyar, Mr. C. Seshachalam, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, Mr. M. Tirumala Rao, Mr. M. A. Majid and Mr. C. R. Srinivasan participated.

Among the suggestions proferred by them were that 50 per cent of the Excise duty on tobacco, etc., raised by the Centre from the provinces should be handed over to the provinces, that the provinces should have the right to levy Succession duties and Estate duties, that the proceeds of the Corporation tax should be amalgamated with the proceeds of income-tax and form the devisible pool available for distribution to the provinces, that manufacture and sale of salt should be made provincial and that the possibilities of increasing the rates of the sales tax should be explored.

Suggestions were also made that items of taxation like the agricultural income-tax, which could be better and more suitably made a part of the general income-tax scheme, should be allocated to the Centre and that it would be desirable for the provinces to go slow with regard to the implementation of Prohibition which involves considerable loss of revenue. It was also pointed out that at a suitable time before the financial proposals for distribution of the financial resources between the Centre and the provinces are formulated and approved, a conference should be convened where the issues can be discussed at Governmental level and a suitable formula evolved. The constitution of a permanent Economic or Fiscal Relations Board, which would continuously have under review the financial relations between the Centre and the provinces was also suggested.

The general view was that, while each unit of Government should be allotted revenue-yielding resources which will be commensurate with the requirements of the administrative functions it is called upon to discharge, the Provincial Governments, which have to undertake developmental programmes on a large scale, should be enabled to have adequate finances to meet the demands on them. In other words the financial requirements of a strong Centre should be reconciled with the needs of the provinces which have to carry through large nation-building schemes.

It was also felt that a more fruitful discussion on the issues involved can take place only when the outlines of the whole future financial relations between the Centre and the provinces are more or less complete. Before the conference closed, the Minister thanked the invitees for the useful suggestions they made, which would be helpful to him and the Government in carrying on negotiations with the Central Government in the near future.

Mr. Gopala Reddi's Speech

I may just give you a bird's eye-view of the financial position of the province so that it may give you a correct idea of the present position. It will enable us to press for new sources of revenue in order to meet the normal needs of the province and also the requirements of post-war development schemes.

The amount of revenue from the principal heads for 1946–47 is as follows :—

	RS. (IN LAKHS).
Income-tax	406·86
Land Revenue ..	842·34
Excise	1,421·73
Forest	171·65
Stamps	427·01
Registration	77·00
Motor Vehicles Act ..	118·31
Commercial Taxes ..	806·83
Receipts from Electricity Schemes.	126·68
Other heads	773·17

The total income is Rs. 5,171·52 lakhs. The expenditure chargeable to

revenue account in 1946–47 comes to Rs. 5,997·13 lakhs. The deficit in the revenue account according to the above figures comes to Rs. 825·61 lakhs which we have to draw from the revenue reserve fund. Taking this out, the balance in the revenue reserve fund at the end of 1946–47 will be Rs. 2,337 lakhs.

Excise Revenue

You are aware that the Congress has been fighting for total prohibition of all alcoholic liquors right from 1920 and it has been one of the chief planks of the Congress programme. It was approved by the Electorate both in 1937 and in 1946 elections. Eight districts had already gone dry from October 1946 and eight more are to go dry from October this year. We are painfully aware that the loss of excise revenue will obviously affect the finances of the province. But we are pledged to it and we are determined to carry it out. When we talk of provincial finances we can only take into account all sources of income for the province deducting the excise income. During the war the excise revenue of the province went up and in 1945–46 it reached a peak figure of

1,679·50 lakhs—that was the peak year for Madras and also for any other province in India. So deducting the excise revenue, the total revenue would be roughly about 35 crores.

Post-War Development

During the war, a number of committees were appointed by the Advisers' regime to go into post-war development schemes of the province and a compilation of all the items comes to about 135 crores of rupees. This amount is needed to execute the first five-year plan of post-war development. Even at the end of this first five-year plan, only one-third of the province would come under the road development scheme, and one-fourth of the province under compulsory elementary education and medical relief schemes.

The main items of post-war development expenditure are given below:

	CRORES.
Education	30·67
Medical and Public Health.	14·08
Agriculture	8·01
Industries and Fisheries.	3·37
Irrigation	27·56
Electricity	11·10
Forest	1·62
Veterinary and live-stock.	1·67
Roads	27·79
Other items	9·13
Total ..	135·00

Central Grants

To finance the post-war development schemes, Government of India had been pleased to give us Rs. 6·25 crores. This amount covers not only post-war development schemes but also the Grow More Food scheme subsidies. The Government of India could not tell us whether this block-grant of Rs. 6·25 crores would be maintained during the next five years. But let us hope that they will maintain the figure. Even so, it will only come to about thirty crores of rupees and we would still require over Rs. 100 crores for the next five years. This will have to be met partly from new sources of revenue and partly from borrowings. If it is not possible to cover this deficiency from these sources, the post-war development programme will have to be curtailed to the extent necessary.

In 1945–46 we had a surplus of Rs. 17 crores which was transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund and in 1946–47 we ran into a deficit of Rs. 8 crores which was drawn from the Revenue Reserve Fund, as I had stated above. Food subsidies and purchase of army surplus military lorries and jeeps alone represent a little over Rs. 12 crores, while the loss of revenue due to prohibition, revision of scales of pay for the police constables, bonus to the N.G.Os., expansion of almost all Government departments and subsidies to ryots for sinking wells, etc., represent the rest. This year too, due to extension of prohibition in more districts, bonus for procurement of food grains, revision of salaries for teachers, warders and police constables, and new schemes introduced in the course of the year, there will be a deficit of two to three crores even after setting off the anticipated excess income from sale of arrack, ganja, etc., shops, due to competitive bids at the auctions and from income-tax.

Under capital expenditure too, we will have the nationalisation of road transport, payment of compensation to zamindars, taking over the Madras Electric Supply Corporation and loans for housing schemes. These schemes require several crores of rupees which have to be met from borrowings.

Thus we are running into deficit year by year and with the advent of total prohibition, the deficit must be on the increase. This can only be met by drastic retrenchment, which is almost out of the question, revision of our tax system and getting more sources of income from the Centre.

Centre *vs.* Provinces

As the Constituent Assembly is to discuss the Union Powers *vis-a-vis* Provincial powers in its next session, I have ventured to call this Conference just to see whether we can cajole the Centre to part with, or to share with the Provincial Government, certain sources of their income.

Just at present, Government of India give us 15 per cent of half the net proceeds from income-tax excluding Corporation Tax, under what is termed the 'Niemiyer Award'. Excepting that contribution, there is no other statutory contribution from the Centre to the provinces.

I shall now mention a few sources of Central revenues in which we can claim a share even under the existing Government of India Act. (1) Though sections 137 and 140 (1) of the Government of India Act provide for distribution to provinces of taxes on succession of property, terminal tax, federal duties on excise, exports, etc., nothing has been done so far and the Provinces were not benefited by the incorporation of these clauses into the Government of India Act. I particularly draw your attention to section 140 (1) of that Act under which the Government of India have to share with the provinces the whole or part of the income from the tax on excise and export duties. Under section 140 (2) of the Act, the Bengal Government are getting a major portion of the export duty on jute while our province is not getting anything from the export duty imposed on coffee, tea and cotton; nor are we getting any benefit out of the excise duty levied on tobacco and other articles. On tobacco the excise duty collected is nearly three crores of rupees in our province. We are only getting a paltry sum of Rs. 22 lakhs from the Government of India on the basis of revenue derived by us during the three years 1940–41 to 1942–43. We have a legitimate claim to revive our Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Licensing) Act of 1939. It may yield us roughly about 150 lakhs if a tax is levied at 10 per cent of the turnover. On the basis of it, we can press for a revision of the existing arrangement. This Government had addressed a communication to the Government of India recently on this question and promptly came the reply that this 22 lakhs is a permanent compensation per annum and it cannot be enhanced. Surely what was done during the Advisers' Regime cannot bind a popular Legislature and the popular Legislature is entitled to revise, if not repudiate, what was done previously with regard to this.

Under other heads under excise duty, the Government of India get from our Province a sum of three crores of rupees and if we can get 50 per cent of it, it will mean another 150 lakhs for our province. We can safely and legally claim under section 140 (1) quoted above, half of the revenue from excise duties collected in this Province.

Under export duties too, we have a clear case for at least 50 per cent of the net proceeds if not for the whole of it.

Taxes on Corporation including excess profit tax levied during the war time was not divisible between the Centre and the provinces. It was entirely ear-marked for the Centre while the provinces contributed largely for making up that revenue. All the facilities that companies require, like electricity, etc., are provided by the provinces; but they do not get any return out of these business profits. It does not stand scrutiny that Corporation tax should be excluded from the divisible pool while income-tax is

included. There does not seem to be any reason or rhyme in this and we must ask for the inclusion of the Corporation tax also to come into the joint divisible pool.

Needless to say, all the primary development schemes are vested in the provinces and the income derived under the income-tax must be made available to the provinces to a greater degree than before. With the alteration of our geographical boundaries, the division of Bengal and the Punjab and the cession of the Frontier Province and Sind, the entire Niemiyer Award has to be revised and modified to the advantage of the provinces. The present 50 per cent basis is totally inadequate and we can safely press that it must be enhanced to at least 75 per cent. The Joint Select Committee presided over by Lord Linlithgow, in one of its recommendations, envisaged a distribution of the net proceeds from the income-tax up to 75 per cent of the total· But Niemiyer put it at the rock-bottom minimum of 50 per cent. We have a right case for raising it to 75 per cent from 50 per cent.

For a total of about 36,000 miles of road in our Province, only 2,000 miles have been taken over under the National Highways leaving about 34,000 miles to be maintained by the Province, and the demand for rural roads and improved communications is very pressing and urgent. The Government of India is levying a very high import duty on motor cars, spare parts, motor spirit, etc. While the bulk of the responsibility for maintaining roads is on the provinces, the import duty on vehicles running on these roads is taken away entirely by the Centre. Except for a percentage of the surcharge on motor spirit, provinces do not get any benefit out of this import duty. It is one of the principles of finance that he who maintains an institution must also get the benefits derived from or through that institution and it cannot be gainsaid that unless there are good provincial and marketing roads, the number of buses, lorries and cars plying on them cannot increase. Here again we have a good case for a share in the import duty levied on motor spirit, motor vehicles, etc., by the Centre.

Gentlemen, I have indicated a few points for your consideration and I am sure you have other proposals to make for making provincial autonomy a real success by allowing to it other new sources of income and by also adding to it increased percentages in the existing resources.

Financial Position of the Province Explained

In the course of a Studio Interview on the evening of 24th July at the Madras Station of All-India Radio, the Hon'ble Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister of the Government of Madras, made a reference among other things to the financial position of the Province and the question of the salaries of Madras Government employees in relation to the high cost of present living.

The Finance Minister said, "According to the budget estimates both revenue and expenditure will be much lower this year. The chief cause of the lower revenue is the rapid extension of Prohibition. Expenditure is lower largely because there is no contribution to the Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift Fund this year whereas Rs. 4 crores was contributed last year, and partly because this year's budget assumes a better food position and therefore lower expenditure on subsidising the supply of foodgrains. As the food position is now worse than last year, there will be much extra expenditure on this account above what is shown in this year's budget.

"Last year was expected to close with a deficit of about Rs. 8¼ crores, of which Rs. 4 crores was due to the contribution to the Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift Fund. The final figure for the deficit is not available yet. The actual deficit will be covered by a transfer from the Revenue Reserve Fund. This year's budget shows a deficit of about Rs. 1½ crores There will be extra expenditure due to the food crisis and other causes and a further loss of revenue of over half a crore of rupees due to the extension of Prohibition to two more districts from 1st October 1947 in addition to the six districts on which the budget figures are based. The final result this year may therefore probably be a deficit of some Rs. 4 to 5 crores which will be covered by a transfer from the Revenue Reserve Fund."

Referring to the efforts being made to improve the revenues of the Government, Mr. Gopal Reddi said "Many proposals have been considered but many of them had to be given up for some reason or other. The Government increased the rates of tax on petrol and other motor spirit considerably from 1st February 1947. The rates of registration fees in certain cases were increased from 1st May 1947. The fees in Government Arts and Engineering Colleges have been raised with effect from the current academic year. There are some other proposals now under consideration. The chief one is for an increase in the rate of the General Sales Tax. The Government will take over the Madras Electric Supply Corporation in August 1947. They have also decided that all the buses in Madras City shall be run as a Government Transport concern as soon as possible. These changes will produce some additional revenue. The abolition of the Zamindari system of land tenure should also result eventually in some increase in the land revenue."

Referring to the question of salaries of Government employees and the new cost of living, the Finance Minister admitted it was reasonable for Government employees to expect higher emoluments than they received in 1942 in view of the abnormal increase in the cost of living that has taken place since 1942. The Government have done what they thought reasonably possible to meet this need. He went on:

"A dearness allowance was sanctioned during the war for all except the most highly paid officers, and it has been increased from time to time. The pay scales of all the subordinate services were also revised with effect from the 1st January 1947 and a house allowance was given to all Government employees on pay up to Rs. 80 a month in towns with a population of 50,000 or more. This was done on the recommendation of the Cabinet Salaries Committee, which examined the whole position with great care. Before the Committee made its report, the Chairman had a discussion with the Central Pay Commission, and the Commission's tentative views were taken into account by the Committee.

"The total cost of dearness allowance to this Government is now about 4·46 crores a year for Government servants and Village Officers. The House Allowance for Government servants costs about 12·3 lakhs a year. The ultimate cost of the revision of pay scales for Government servants from

(*Continued on page 30*)

7 SEP 1947 MADRAS

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the second fortnight of July

Market Conditions and Trend of prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Gingelly oil-cake and groundnut oil-cake.

Rise.—Groundnut (shelled) (5·1 per cent)—Gingelly seed (1·4 per cent)—Coconut oil (10·8 per cent)—Groundnut oil (5·3 per cent)—Gingelly oil (3·8 per cent) and cotton seed (3 per cent).

Fall—Copra (1·4 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets procured locally in the districts and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from abroad :—

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending* 15*th July* 1947.—

Paddy—32,876 tons and Rice—13,461 tons—Together equivalent to 36,284 tons in terms of rice.

Millets—4,622 tons.

(*b*) *Receipts from other States and Provinces during the fortnight ending* 31*st July* 1947 :—

Rice—2,627 tons.
Millets—288 tons.
Wheat—Nil.
Wheat products—Nil.
Pulses—

		TONS.
Blackgram	..	253
Redgram	..	Nil.
Greengram	..	49
Bengalgram	..	1,134
Total	..	1,436

(*c*) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending* 31*st July* 1947.—

		TONS.
Rice	.. ..	Nil.
Millets (milo)	..	9,140
Wheat	.. ..	Nil.
Wheat products	..	Nil.

Stock and supply—Principal Foodgrains

Rice.—The steamer "Ormara" which left Karachi on 7th July 1947 with 2,308 tons of whole rice and brokens from Sind for this Province is understood to have been held up at Bombay on account of congestion in that Port. Its arrival at Cochin has therefore been delayed. There is a balance of 2,700 tons of whole rice and brokens due from Sind ; but it is not known when this quantity of rice will arrive. The quota of 10,000 tons of rice from Central Provinces, has now been reduced to 5,000 tons.

There is some improvement in the procurement of rice probably as a result of the announcement of the Bonus Scheme. In the week ending 31st July 1947 procurement of rice amounted to 25,182 tons compared with 21,247 tons in the previous week and 15,765 tons in the week ending 17th July 1947. Nevertheless, the stock of rice in the Province has fallen from 199,477 tons on 10th July 1947, to 184,680 tons on 31st July 1947. The stock position continues to be worse in Malabar, Coimbatore and South Kanara. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain an adequate flow of supplies to these districts. Unless improvement in procurement can be maintained, a crisis in these districts at the end of August may be unavoidable.

Millets.—During the fortnight, 8,000 tons of milo on the S.S. "Andalusia" and 1,140 tons of milo on the S.S. "Palamcottah" were received. A further 320 tons of milo from Ceylon is expected on the S.S. "Shajahan" at Madras early in August. A quantity of 230 tons of Australian millets is expected on the S.S. "Matra" at Madras early in August. A shipload of 8,000 tons of milo was expected at Madras in August; but it is not now being received. Nevertheless, the millets stock position is generally satisfactory. On 31st July 1947, the stocks of millets were 27,326 tons, i.e., just under 2½ months' stocks.

Maize, Barley and Rye.—No imports of these foodgrains were received during the fortnight. The stocks of these foodgrains now remaining in the ditricts are small and the rate of disposal continues to be satisfactory.

Wheat and Wheat Products.—The stock of wheat has fallen to 1,606 tons on 31st July 1947 when compared with the offtake of 1,137 tons in June. The S.S. "Noorjahan" carrying 1,000 tons of Sind wheat is leaving Karachi early in August. When this shipload is received at Madras, it will be possible to replenish the stocks in most districts. The flour position is much less satisfactory than the wheat position. Stocks are now only 532 tons and in many districts the shortage is so great that wheat is being issued to bakeries in place of flour. Unfortunately, no imports of wheat flour are expected in August.

Pulses.—The S.S. "Jalavijaya" carrying 966 tons of Jhind and Punjab gram arrived at Cochin on 22nd July 1947. The S.S. "Rivercrest" carrying 168 tons of Jhind gram arrived at Tuticorin on 31st July 1947. In the first fortnight of August, the S.S. "Ormara" carrying 179 tons of Sind gram products and the S.S. "Jayabramha" carrying 678 tons of Sind, Jhind and Punjab gram products are expected at Cochin. The balance of the Sind, Punjab and Nabha 1946–47 rabi plan bengalgram dhall amounting to about 2,000 tons have been cancelled. Consequently, there is practically no bengalgram to be moved now against 1946–47 rabi plan allotment. The Government of India have now agreed that the Bahawalpur quota of 2,000 tons of bengalgram under the 1947–48 rabi plan should be moved through the trade. The quota of redgram from United Provinces has now been increased to 15,000 tons, but due to rise in price in that Province, it is feared that only a fraction of the quota will be secured. The redgram quota from Rampur has been increased from 870 tons to 1,830 tons. The redgram stock position continues to be unsatisfactory in most districts. Several districts are also short of blackgram. The bengalgram and greengram stock position is generally satisfactory throughout the Province.

Rationing

The total ration to rice eaters has been raised from 8 oz. per adult per day to 10 oz. (composed of 8 oz. of rice and 2 oz. of millets, milo, maize, etc.) and that to meals' hotels from 4 oz. to 5 oz. per meal (composed of 4 oz. of rice and 1 oz. of millets, milo, etc.). Milo has also been included as one of the components of the supplementary ration to heavy manual labourers.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs

Groundnut.—In view of the availability of millets to supplement the rice ration, the scheme for the

(*Continued on page* 30)

Food Transport

The public has got used to dealing with the Civil Supplies Department, which has indeed been called in some quarters the "Corn Chandlers Department", and it buys rice quite cheerfully from the ration shop with its familiar yellow sign board, and other foodstuffs from the ordinary merchants. It never bothers to ask itself how the food comes to the shops. If it thinks at all, it assumes that it is a simple matter for Government to move rice from the paddy fields and pulses from North India and put them on sale. Food has always found its way from the grower to the consumer and the public has never bothered how it was done; the mechanics of the movement do not concern it. In point of fact it is a continual strain on the transport of the country. Food is brought into the Presidency from all over India and all over the world. Feeding the public has become a matter of international, national and provincial concern.

Pre-war Period

It was not always so. Before the war the whole organization of food supply was in the hands of the merchants, who bought in the cheapest market and transported food to where it was required, and famines in those days were rather a matter of lack of money than of lack of food itself. Now all that has changed and not only is food itself in "short supply" but also the means of transporting it from the grower to the consumer. There is a shortage of ships, of railway waggons and of lorries; there is also a shortage of fuel-oil, coal and petrol. In these circumstances it is no longer possible to leave the purchase and distribution of food to private merchants and the whole of the civilized world has been called in aid. A tremendous burden has been thrown on all forms of transport and it is necessary not only to ration food stuffs themselves but also to control and organize transport so that the limited facilities at present available may be made to do as much work as possible. The Civil Supplies Department has built up an elaborate organization which not only assist the railways by seeing to it that supplies are moved along them in the most economical manner possible, but also wherever it can lays on alternative means of transport, sometimes ships, sometimes lorries and sometimes other more primitive means of transport like canal craft.

As far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, Madras City has to be entirely fed from outside, and even in the best years the south-west corner of the Presidency is heavily deficit in rice, millets and pulses. Taking first things first, it is of interest to examine the supply of rice. Madras City in spite of its relatively heavy demand is not particularly difficult to feed. It has good rail communications with all parts of the Presidency and food can be brought straight in along the north-east line of the M.S.M., the main metre gauge line of S.I.R., and to some extent also by canal from Nellore. Coimbatore, Malabar and the Nilgiris, however, present a much more difficult problem. In the first place they consume enormous quantities of rice. The demand in Malabar sometimes rises to as much as 30,000 tons a month—1,000 tons a day. Secondly the only really large surpluses are to be found in the Delta Areas—the Circars and Tanjore district. Bezwada is more than 700 miles from Calicut and though Tanjore is very much nearer, it is entirely serviced by metre gauge lines, while Malabar is broad gauge from Palghat onwards. Nor is it all plain sailing even from Bezwada, for apart from the enormous distance to be covered, which in itself makes for a considerable time lag between procurement and consumption and keeps wagons loaded with rice for days together, there is the added complication, as in the case of Tanjore, that the Kistna district and a corner of West Godavari, are served by a metre gauge line. There is no question but that the existence of two gauges in India has led to enormous waste of wagons, time, labour and temper. Wagons loaded in the metere gauge area of Kistna for the south have to be transhipped at Tadapalli and loads from Tanjore for Malabar have to be transhipped at Palghat or Coimbatore and delays on account of transhipment are endless. In spite of the best efforts of the railways it is not always possible to produce the required number of empty wagons at the transhipment point at the precise moment that the loaded wagons arrive: it is always necessary to have shunting engines and coolies and they may not be available. It is the business of the Civil Supplies Department to minimize the use of these transhipment points as far as possible, though the running of loads through them cannot be eliminated entirely. There is another subject which is the direct concern of this department and that is to see that there is no cross movement. It is a cross movement to bring rice from the Circars to Malabar, while we are at the same time moving rice from Tanjore to the Ceded districts. The rule is that districts must be supplied from the source nearest them. This is generally done, though it sometimes happens that a crisis arises in which it becomes necessary to move stocks from wherever they happen to be available to a threatened area.

Fortunately Malabar is not fed entirely from the Presidency and rice is allotted to it from other parts of India and from Overseas, though to a very much less extent than before the war. The bulk of the rice from the rest of India comes from the Punjab and Sind and in either case it moves by sea from Karachi direct to Cochin in the monsoon, or when the port is open, to Calicut. This obviously relieves the pressure on the railways and if only these shipments were more frequent a very great burden would be raised from the transport of South India. It is also possible sometimes to move rice by sea from the Circars ports of Masulipatam and Cocanada to Malabar ports, but this is a more expensive way of doing things and the time factor is involved. To justify the use of a ship it is necessary to collect at least 5,000 tons of rice at the port and this involves stopping rail supplies while the stock is being built up and it is a plain fact that it is very rarely possible to stop rail supplies even for a day or two.

There are other extra-provincial sources of supply too. Orissa supplies large quantities of rice which come by rail and rice is also found in the Eastern States. The difficulty in ~~that~~ case is that these States are extremely remote, their communications are bad and for the most part they lie far away from the nearest rail head. Only in the case of Baster is there a reasonable road and even on that road there is a deep gedda to be crossed which is not bridged. It is easy enough to get across in times of dry weather, but when the monsoon has set in it involves the running of one set of lorries from Jagdalpur to the gedda and another set of lorries from the other side of the gedda to the Bobbili rail head, with a ferry service in between. This is even worse than a rail transhipment, as it is carried out in pouring rain and

by inadequate means. A unit of lorries has been stationed at Salur for nearly two years to move this rice and also to bring in the rice which we get as part of the Orissa allotment from Koraput district. All this rice has to come down the inadequate and nearly ruinous Salur Ghat to Bobbili whence it is railed to its destination. For the first five months of this year there was a unit at Tellicherry to transport a quota of rice from Coorg to North Malabar and in both cases the lorries were part of the Civil Supplies Transport fleet.

It was very early found that there were not nearly enough lorries available in the Presidency for the movements that this department had to make and ever since lorries have been added to the fleet under its control. These are stationed in small units all over the Presidency and there is a large number in Madras city itself which transports firewood and rice from the stations to the depots. Units are also sent out from time to time to districts in urgent need of them. At present there are over 40 in Kistna where they perform two functions, transporting paddy from the threshing floor to the mill and rice from the mill to broad gauge station in order to avoid unnecessary use of the Tadepalli transhipment point. Obviously lorries can also be used in an emergency to transport food when the railways are out of commission by reason of floods or strikes: the units sent to Tanjore last year during the South Indian Railway strike did very well.

The lorries are under the control of the Provincial Road Transport Officer except in the city where they are controlled by the Transport Officer, and they are serviced in the districts by local garages and in the city by the Government automobile workshop, which was originally started by the Civil Supplies Department, though now it has been handed over to the State Bus Service.

The Civil Supplies Department, therefore, besides being one of the biggest customers of the railways in South India, and dealing extensively in ships, is a carrier on its own account. The whole object of the movements-side is to see first that the food reaches the people and secondly that it does so with the minimum dislocation to transport and inconvenience to the transporting public. Of course, since it moves such huge quantities of goods, it necessarily absorbs a great deal of the limited transport available, but efforts are constantly being made to reduce this to a minimum by economical movement and quick loading and unloading.

[By R. C. Hope,
Assistant Commissioner (Movements), Civil Supplies.]

Milk Supply to School Children

By J. PARRY JONES, Friends Service Unit

In the spring of 1946 it was evident that for Madras Presidency the coming summer was going to present great problems on account of the food shortage which seemed inevitable. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies set about early preparations for guarding the food supplies of the Presidency. In so far as it has always been the indirect effects of such a shortage which are the most alarming, and also that it is the children who are still in the growing years who become the most vulnerable section of the population, it was thought that alongside the struggle to bring in the grains and millets to Madras, milk should be imported also for distribution to the children as a protective food and to stave off the malnutrition and all-round debilitation which threatened them.

In March 1946, Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, who was then the Commissioner of Civil Supplies in the Board of Revenue, invited interested non-officials to his office for a conference during which he proposed a scheme by which the Government would buy large quantities of milk overseas and would distribute to elementary school children in Madras Presidency. He sought their suggestions and their consideration. The Adviser's Government, which was then functioning, accepted the proposal and issued orders on the initial preparations for the distribution project. When the popular Ministry came into power they also endorsed the scheme and in June passed final orders enabling the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to begin his operations. The Members of the Friends Service Unit, which was the Indian Section of an International Quaker Relief Organization, came down to Madras on deputation with the Food Department to co-operate with the Government in the working of the scheme and to cover the supervisory and inspection work involved. The Government put at their disposal a vehicle which enabled them to tour freely throughout the Presidency.

Essence of the scheme

The essence of the scheme proposed was that a pint of the milk shipped from America would be drunk daily by each child in the Elementary Schools of the districts chosen and all other parts of the work were merely to make this possible and to ensure the smooth working of such a scheme. It was decided that distribution should be made in the schools by the Headmasters because it is there alone that children congregate regularly and are under the discipline of their elders, as also because within the frame of the Education Department there is existing machinery for organizing school distribution. At first five districts were chosen as being most in need of the working of such a scheme—Anantapur, Bellary, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem. Later on Vizagapatam, Malabar, Coimbatore, Ramnad and Tinnevelly were included in the project. The high lights of the scheme as worked out by the Commissioner were that the milk should be delivered in the taluks of each district and that the allocation to schools would be in the hands of the Taluk Supply Officer and the Deputy Inspector of Schools who had worked out between them the supply and collecting problems in their taluks. The milk would travel through the same channels as the food grains and millets, with the co-operation of the wholesale store-keepers, who did this free of charge as their contribution to the easing of the food problem, and the retailers. From the retail shop it would be collected by the schools and taken to the children for preparation and distribution.

In the school, the preparation for distribution of the milk was undertaken by the teachers, to whom it inevitably meant additional work, but who shouldered it sportively. A small allowance of Rs. 5 was made to each school to cover the incidental expense on any utensils and firewood bought. This was in no way adequate in the large schools where faggots were difficult to get, but it was at least a nominal acknowledgment of the fact that some expense was

involved and that Government was making its contribution. The process of preparation was really quite simple, involving a very thorough mixing of the powder with a little water until it became a thick paste of even texture. When this was achieved more water was added to bring the final preparations of the mixture to 1 part of powder to 8 parts of water. In most cases the children supplied their own cups but where this was difficult cigarette tins were made available to them or else they used coconut shells. It became a regular part of the school programme which the children looked forward to in more places with great enthusiasm, although it tended to eat up the time of the school staff. A register was kept in school showing the daily distribution of milk to each child who received it, which helped Inspecting Officers in their work of making the supplies to the taluk tally with the amount consumed in the schools.

Of the milk imported into Madras Presidency, 6,430 tons was made up of separated milk powder and 1,262 tons of whole milk powder. The separated milk, which for purposes of distribution to children is an excellent food indeed, as it contains all the necessary vitamins which Indian children lack in their diet in various packings. Some of it was in small air-tight packings which were ready to move to the taluks as they came off the ships but a great proportion came packed in 200 lb. barrels which were not air-tight and which were sometimes broken by the time they reached Madras, and this had to be re-packed altogether. Messrs. Parry & Co., undertook this task in their repacking plant at Ranipet and in the peak period of this work their out put of milk repacked in tins of 25 and 28 lb. reached 48 tons per day. The whole milk was purchased in America by the Agents of the Government of India as was the rest of the separated milk powder, but as it was a special food it was handed on behalf of the Government of India by the American Friends Committee, which is one of the leading organizations in the United States. As an established organization with old contacts in the Food and Milk World in America, the American Friends Service Committee was able to gain access to this valuable food commodity, and undertook to ship it to India independently of all the rest of the milk. This also arrived in tins of 5 lb. which was a very useful packing for the purposes of the Milk Scheme.

Working of the Project

When orders were passed in June 1946 that the milk project would start functioning, the first movement reached the districts in July and from then until the end of February 1947 the scheme was officially in operation, with ten districts involved from September onwards. In this time over 5,000 tons of powdered milk were distributed to school children in those ten districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 72 lakhs spent on the actual distribution alone. The 7,700 tons of milk imported had cost the Government of Madras over Rs. 145 lakhs to purchase, and in these ten districts they were able to feed almost 1½ million children daily with a tumbler of milk. These figures will indicate that this is an expensive way to fight a famine but we must remember that it is not merely a matter of rupees and pounds of milk and so many children. There are other far more intangible considerations to be taken into account, and foremost amongst these is the undeniable fact that the children in each district showed great improvement after the distribution had started in their schools. In one school in Chittoor district where the management had, over a number of years, taken the weight of each child at the beginning of each month for purposes of checking on health and development, there was an average increase of ½ lb. throughout the school and in one instance a child had gained 10 lb. in that first month. This will indicate that the children had a distinct need for such a food and that when it was made available to them they showed the improvement possible when fed regularly and systematically with good milk prepared under hygenic conditions. In most of the schools visited by the Friends Service Unit men, there was universal approval of the distribution and comments to the effect that the children had a great deal more vitality and were far less anxious to stay away from school. Perhaps the highest commendation of the benefits of the milk scheme came from the Government Nutrition officer with the Food Department, Sri Rao Saheb B. G. Krishnan who toured Malabar and other districts during the operation of the scheme.

"All those whom I met were gratified at the free distribution of reconstituted milk to school children there and were anxious that it should be continued for some more time.

* * *

The introduction of the free distribution of reconstituted milk to the school children in Malabar appears to have done immense good and has increased the attendance and activity of the schools. Continuation of this system is desirable in the interests of the growing generation."

The history of the milk project has not been all plain sailing. In February 1947, it came to an end because the Government decided that it was too expensive, and because the food crisis was over any way they thought it best to drop it. This left about 4,000 tons of powdered milk stored in various parts of the Presidency and considerable quantities to be used up unofficially until stocks were exhausted except in Malabar where the project would proceed without interruption. The special consideration was made in favour of Malabar because the whole milk powder shipped by the American Friends Service Committee, unlike the rest of the milk which the Government of India bought freely in the States, could not, by its very terms of reference, be sold at all but had to be distributed to needy children in deficit areas. In this way the distribution has gone on in Malabar continuously since December of last year.

Scheme to be Revieved

The problem of feeding Madras Presidency is once again looming large in the minds of the Government, and since about 3,500 tons of the milk powder from last year's scheme is still stored in the various godowns in the Presidency, it has been decided to revive the milk scheme in eight of the original ten districts and also in Madras city. This comes in very good time, now that the food position appears difficult for the next month or two, and it is very much to be hoped that the milk which has been stored for many months will in this way become of value again in a time of crisis.

What were the effects of the scheme? What lessons did we learn from operating it? How keen are the people of South India to have such schemes provided for them? How prepared is Government to spend money on this type of project? These are fair questions and I think that there is an equally fair answer to each one. We have seen above from the reports of the Government Nutrition Officer that the milk was of great benefit to the children; I think it is true also that it established a sense of gratitude on behalf of the people towards a Government which provided for their children

in times of need. To those who were engaged on the supervision and operation of the scheme it was also, in its way, an education. We learnt that the success of operating such a widespread project depends on securing the co-operation of those at the far end of the lines of responsibility, i.e., in this case the school-masters. Having given them all possible details concerning all aspects of the project also instructions as to how it should be administered we found that they were always ready to do their utmost to make it a success and even when it meant that they were sometimes out of pocket we knew that they were only too happy to ensure that the scheme carried on. Apart from this lesson of securing the confidence of the teachers, another lesson we learnt was that no trouble should be too great in dealing directly with the people actually doing the distribution in the villages.

Once the people of this Presidency have seen such a scheme operating in their Elementary Schools and the children have acquired a taste for the milk, there is no reason to doubt that they would welcome the development of it further, and would probably be prepared to pay for part of it. Even the poorest women in the remote corners of the province understand the value of good milk for their children, and for something which is so obviously beneficial they would need less persuasion to co-operate than for other Government schemes which they cannot possibly be expected to understand.

The crucial question is whether Government can be persuaded that this kind of project is the most vital and important that they can embark on. There is no better way to provide for the future than to ensure milk for the growing generation now. There cannot possibly be a project which is more basically and directly nation-building in its effects, securing as it does the opportunities for growth and all- round development which milk means to children. It is not a matter of quick returns, as the harvest of such wise practice with youngsters is at least two decades later, but any Government who ventured on it could never be criticised for neglecting the welfare of the most important group of its citizens, and the certain gratification with which the Province's leaders could look back in later years should frotify them in taking courageous steps to-day.

Administration Report of the Electricity Department

The Administration Report of the Electricity Department for 1945–46 shows that the progress of the department was on the whole satisfactory notwithstanding the restrictions and controls which continued throughout the period, despite the cessation of hostilities in 1945. The aggregate demand under the Government systems during the year under review was 60,870 K.W. as against 58,125 K.W. in 1944–45 and the total number of units generated was 327·35 millions as against 301·14 millions in 1944–45. The gross revenue from the departmental undertakings was Rs. 116·44 lakhs as against Rs. 102·94 lakhs in 1944–45, representing an increase of 13 per cent.

The total number of consumers served by the electrical undertakings, including Government ones, was 134,125 as on March 31, 1946. Of these, 100,634 were in the area covered by the Government undertakings; 20,905 were served directly by the Electricity department and 79,729 by licensees distributing Government power. The remaining 33,491 consumers were served by the sub-generating licensees. One noteworthy feature is that there was increased demand and consumption of electricity for agricultural purposes.

During the period under review, water level was very unsatisfactory at Mettur. The Mettur Power-house had to be actually closed down from 16th to 30th January 1946, the lake level having gone down below the limits of power generation. However, supply over the whole system was continued without much inconvenience to consumers or dimunition in production by availing of relief available from Pykara and by enforcing restrictive measures.

Several major electricity schemes were sanctioned during the year. These include (1) Moyar Hydro-Electric Scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 193·1 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 268 lakhs in five years; (2) extension to the power-station at Basin Bridge, Madras, estimated to cost Rs. 110·25 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 244·17 lakhs in ten years; and (3) extensions to the Vizagapatam Power-house, estimated to cost Rs. 22·91 lakhs initially, rising to 27 lakhs in five years. Agreement was reached with the Orissa Government on the Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme which is capable of an ultimate development of 100,000 K.W. The Madras Government's share is estimated at Rs. 420·11 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 587·6 lakhs in ten years. The Madura Thermal Scheme was sanctioned in April, 1946, at an estimated cost of Rs. 88 lakhs. Proposals for the purchase of power from the Jog Falls Scheme of the Mysore Government for distribution in the Ceded Districts have also been sanctioned by the Government in August 1946.

Under programme for 1946–47, the report says as follows :—

"The West Coast extensions, the Mettur IV unit extensions and Madura-Koilpatti II circuit line, will be completed and handed over to operation.

Machkund.—Local roads, camps, detailed investigations, and the anti-malaraial work, acquisition of tools and plant, organization of transport and stores, arrangements for construction power supply, and other preliminary works will be in progress on the Machkund Scheme.

Civil works on the Vizagapatam plant extensions will be in progress.

About 75 per cent of all the preliminary and civil works on the Bezwada-Rajahmundry extensions will be completed. Erection of the towers will be in progress as also the civil works at the Bezwada Power-house. The machinery from the United Kingdom is expected to be received and erected only in 1947–48.

Ceded Districts and Nellore.—The Ceded Districts and Nellore Schemes will be in progress.

Madras thermal.—Subject to foundation plans being received in time, a small amount of field work is possible to prepare ground and collect materials for the Madras plant extensions. About 75 per cent of all preliminary and civil works on the Mettur-Madras line will be completed.

Moyar and Pykara.—The Moyar Circle will be shifted to the field as

soon as accommodation there is ready. The power line for the supply of power for construction works at Moyar is being constructed by the Operation branch. The works at Moyar and erection of the Pykara-Moyar-Erode line will be in progress. Preliminary work on the Pykara dam will be on.

Papanasam.—All civil works connected with the Papanasam plant extensions will have been almost completed. Erection of the gates at Tambraparni dam will be well advanced. The manufacture of low-pressure pipes, surge tanks, etc., by the contractors will be in progress and erection of the pipeline will be completed about 50 per cent. Construction work on the Madura thermal station will be in progress.

Investigations.—Investigations of the hydro-electric sites in South Kanara and Andhra areas will be in hand if staff is availabale.

The above programme assumes availability of sufficient civil engineers, materials and transport facilities. Transport facilities, though far from satisfactory at present, are showing signs of improvement. With the end of the war and reduction of demand for men and materials in the military, conditions are expected to improve soon. The civil engineering establishment required for this department is being drawn from Public Works Department (General branch), which has to supply, in addition to its own needs, the requirements of the Irrigation and Highways departments, also. Should the supply not meet the demands of this department, corresponding delay in the completion of the works as scheduled above will be inevitable. The position is being reviewed from time to time and the needs of the department and the urgency of the works explained to the Chief Engineer (General). If any difficulty is experienced in the matter, Government will be duly advised of the position so that they may take suitable action to ensure progress of the Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme and other important works.

There was little progress or development in licensed electric supply undertakings. The number of electric supply undertakings under the Indian Electricity Act continued to be 81. No applications for new licences under the Act were received in the year nor any new ones granted. The restrictions imposed in the previous years on the working hours of oil engine-generating stations continued during the year. The feasibility of partially relaxing such restrictions was under study at the close of the year.

Retail rationing of electricity was in force in the areas of three licensees who generate with oil power.

In Madras and in the panchayat areas taking bulk supply from the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, as well as in the areas of the five licensees who take bulk supply from the Government coal-operated station at Bezwada and in the area of the Cocanada licensee taking supply from the Government oil power-station at Cocanada, retail rationing of electricity continued to be in force. Except in certain thermal areas, the licensees were permitted to give new domestic service connexions monthly up to certain fixed limits. Restoration of street lights to pre-war level in the areas of licensees served by the Pykara, Mettur and Papanasam systems was permitted.

Groundnut Cultivation

Summer crop—Area and yield.—The area under the summer crop of groundnut in parts of the Madras Province during the five months January to May 1947 is estimated at 80,700 acres as against 61,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, representing an increase of 32·3 per cent. The increase is due mainly to high prices. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in Cuddapah and Nellore and below the normal in all the districts of the Province. The total yield is estimated at 68,100 tons of unshelled nuts as against 48,500 tons estimated for the corresponding period of last year, representing an increase of 40·4 per cent.

Early crop.—The area under the early crop of groundnut (mostly unirrigated) up to 25th July 1947 in the districts of Salem and Coimbatore is estimated at 137,400 acres. When compared with the area of 120,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 14·5 per cent. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in Coimbatore and below the normal in Salem. The yield in these two districts is estimated at 68,200 tons of unshelled nuts as against 57,700 tons estimated for the corresponding period of last year representing an increase of 18·2 per cent.

The wholesale price of groundnut (machine shelled) per Imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. or 3,200 tolas as reported from important market centres on 2nd August 1947, was Rs. 23-12-0 in Erode, Rs. 23-4-0 in Salem, Guntur, Nandyal, Adoni, Vellore, Tadpatri and Cuddalore, Rs. 21-10-0 in Bellary, Rs. 21-1-0 in Vizianagram, and Rs. 20-7-0 in Cuddapah. When compared with the prices published in the last report, i.e., those which prevailed on 12th April 1947, these prices reveal a rise of 19 per cent in Erode, 16 per cent in Salem, 11 per cent in Guntur, Nandyal, Adoni and Vellore, 10 per cent in Tadpatri and Cuddalore, 6 per cent in Bellary and a fall of 4 per cent in Cuddapah. The price in Vizianagram remained unchanged.

(*Continued from page* 24)

1st January 1947 is estimated at Rs. 2·02 crores a year. The Government cannot do more for Government servants in this matter than their financial resources permit. They have already revised the pay scales of their subordinate services and they feel that their resources do not permit of a further upward revision. The Government regret that they are not able to contemplate any further revision on the lines of what the Central Pay Commission has recommended for Central Government servants."

National Saving Certificates

Subscriptions from the Province towards National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 19th July 1947 amount to Rs. 44,80,630.

The highest amount is from Tanjore with Rs. 8,36,680. Madras comes next with Rs. 7,20,160 and West Godavari ranks third with Rs. 4,86,705. Nellore takes the last place with Rs. 27,045.

(*Continued from page* 25)

distribution of groundnut through ration shops in the rural areas has been given up.

Potatoes.—To supplement the food-grains ration, it is proposed to make potatoes available to the public at prices not exceeding As. 10 a viss, and to subsidize their sale where necessary.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Supply of firewood was not adequate in the towns of Guntur, Chicacole (Vizagapatam district) and Coimbatore and in parts of the Ramnad district.

There was scarcity of matches in parts of the Chingleput and West Godavari districts.

7 SEP 1947

Society's Duty to Discharged Prisoners

Mr. Scott Brown Reviews work of D.P. Aid Society

The following are extracts from the address delivered by Mr. W. Scott Brown, I.C.S., the then Chief Secretary to Government and President of the Madras Presidency Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, presenting the Annual Report of the Society on the occasion of the annual day celebration of the Society :—

D.P. Aid Society, 26th Annual Gathering—Standing from left to right are : Sir Gopathy Narayanaswamy Chetty, the Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon, His Excellency the Governor, Messrs. T. Sundar Rao Naidu, Scott Brown and Justice Gentle.

The number of members on the roll is now much higher than it has ever been. There has in fact been a gratifying increase of about 700 in the last two years. A membership figure of 343 for Madras City is still a low figure but the upward trend is promising, and shows that more people are becoming interested in the society's work.

Comparison of the financial position with the previous year is rather difficult because there has been a decrease in receipts and expenditure consequent on the provincialisation of the probation service in May 1946. The society did not therefore get the usual Government subsidy for probation work for the remaining months of the year nor did it have to spend during those months the very considerable sums it used to spend. We are grateful to Government for continuing to make the usual contribution of Rs. 5,000 towards working expenses. The amount received by way of subscriptions and donations by the Central Committee has continued to be much the same as in the previous year but there has been a very marked fall in the subscriptions collected by mufassal branches from a little over Rs. 17,000 to just under 8,000. That is a disquieting feature but appeals have been made to the Presidents of various branches to stimulate interest and I trust an upward trend will soon be noticeable.

Basically it is the amount of subscriptions that determines the number of persons that can be helped financially and given shelter. The amount directly spent in aid is still repectively small, though of course, very much real help is given in other ways, e.g., in placing discharged prisoners in employment. Certainly the greatest service the Society and public spirited men and women can give to ex-prisoners is to get them settled in situations where they can forget the past and earn an honest living. But that is not an easy task and it takes time and involves appeals, representations, visits and correspondence of which no adequate account can be given in an Annual Report. And in cases where ex-prisoners are helpless or stranded till they are placed in jobs they have to be looked after and given financial aid. From my knowledge of some of the cases dealt with, I may safely say that we would all like to be more generous at that stage to greater numbers.

I hope that by next year instead of reporting that we were able to secure employment for 264 we shall be able to report employment found for 500 and instead of an expenditure of about

The Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon addressing the gathering

Rs. 5,000 on relief, I hope the figure will be Rs. 10,000. The figure of the number of persons helped (3,214) has risen by about 300 since 1945 and is now back to the standard of 1939 but it is very much below the peak figure of 5,690 in 1943 and I am sure there is abundant opportunity for doing more if funds are forthcoming.

It is true no doubt, that large number of prohibition offenders will return to their ordinary avocations with no special stigma and will in more cases require from the Society neither financial help nor help in securing employment. What they require is help before discharge by talks inculcating the evils of intemperance and stressing the harmful results to their families and themselves of offences like illicit distillation, smuggling of contraband liquor and the like. The Society has taken steps to expand its pre-discharge work in jails to that end and it is hoped the results will be fruitful. But it all makes calls on the time of willing workers and public-spirited people.

After-care work is also important. It is gratifying to note from the report that much is being done in this connection and that the reports of the after-care officers show that the great majority of those helped have really benefited. The report gratefully acknowledges not only the services of honorary after-care workers but also the helpfulness of many employers.

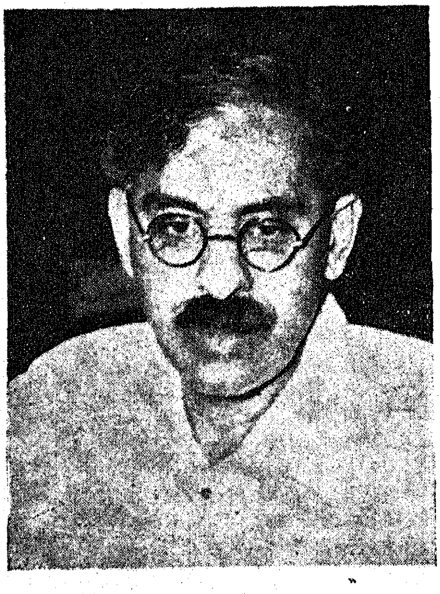
The 18 discharged prisoners' Homes have fulfilled a useful function but I feel that more use might be made of them than is done for the temporary accommodation of discharged prisoners. Our desire is to expand these Homes and make them more than mere shells. A friendly interest in them and a gift of an odd article of furniture, a picture or something to make them more homelike would help a great deal.

There are only one or two other matters to which I would like to invite attention. One is the provincialization of probation work for fostering which the Society has done so much. The report makes detailed reference to this. Government may rest assured that the Society by offering the use of its Homes and in other ways will do everyting possible to help the District Probation Officers even although probation work has been taken out of the Society's hands. The draw on the Society's funds for probation work has been considerable and in some years very heavy in spite of liberal Government grants. In 1945 the Society spent over Rs. 11,800 from its own funds and in 1946 over Rs. 6,000 on probation work. After delving in a somewhat desultory manner in the figures of past year's accounts, I am hopeful that provided public support is maintained the Society will now be able to do more for discharged prisoners proper than it has been able to do in the past, although as Mr. Gawne pointed out last year, by losing the Probation Officers the Society's other work is somewhat handicapped.

It is, however, with a real sense of regret that the Society parts with the work of after-care of ex-Borstal inmates and ex-pupils which it has done since its inception. That work has now been entrusted in the Probation Districts (from which the bulk of the population of the Borstal and Certified schools come) to the District Probation Officers of Government and the Society's work will be limited to the non-probation districts. I am glad to say the Society has offered to give monetary assistance to deserving ex-borstal boys and ex-pupils and has in fact helped several such boys, who were under the supervision of the District Probation Officers with funds to make a start in life.

Preservation of Forest Wealth, A National Duty

Mr. K. Madhava Menon's Broadcast



The expression "forest wealth" a very apt one. The forests of a country constitute an important element in its wealth in a more real sense than the gold in its vaults. The forest is a perennially renewable resource, if it is treated with ordinary care. In this respect it differs profoundly from coal mines, oil wells, gold mines, etc., all of which represent valuable but exhaustible resources. Plant life whether exploited for food by agriculture or for fuel and timber by forestry, is yet the largest and simplest means we have of impounding the energy of the sun in utilisable forms. In exploiting a forest we normally remove only wood from the site, the other plant residues returning to the soil whence they were derived. The forest is to all intent and purposes a self-feeding, self-regul lating, self-regenerating perpetuas machine for transforming with the aid of the sunshine which it absorbs the water of the soil and the carbon dioxide of the air into wood. It is in this sense that I claim that the forest is a more real, more abiding source of wealth than the gold mine.

The most remarkable thing about the vegetation of our country is that despite local variations and diversities, the same types of forest are met with in tracts as far apart as Madras and Assam or the United Provinces. This is due to the fact that over far the greater part of the country the south-west monsoon, conditions the growth of vegetation.

It is estimated that the total number of woody species in India, including exotics, is about 5,000, of which rather more than half are trees, the remainder being shrubs and climbers. There are several hundred economically useful species. These figures give some idea of the range of our forest flora.

The principal timbers of our country are teak, sal, rosewood, deodar, pine, spruce and fir. Teak and rosewood are the most valuable of the timbers

listed, and we in Madras are fortunate in that this province is the principal home in India of these two species. They are too well known in the south to require any description. Madras produces about seven lakhs of cubic feet of teak timber every year.

To this short list we must add sandalwood and bamboos. Madras shares with Mysore a practical monopoly in the production of sandalwood. A small quantity is produced by Bombay, Central Provinces and Hyderabad. Our annual production of sandalwood is about 850 tons, worth Rs. 35 to 40 lakhs. The bamboo is regarded as the poor man's timber, but it is now a recognised raw material for making paper pulp and the demand for it is likely to increase very considerably.

As the principal source of fuel for domestic purposes our forests are most important. During the last war very large quantities of firewood were converted into charcoal for making producer gas for lorries and buses. To meet this demand extensive areas of forest, mostly private forest, were felled, with the result that the normal sources of supply of firewood from private forests dried up and an acute firewood famine set in from which we are still suffering. This unfortunate state of affairs is an inevitable consequence of private ownership of forests; the temptation to clear his forests in order to make the most of a period of high prices is too strong for a private owner, however enlightened, to resist.

Forests are of great value to the people also because of the grazing they provide to cattle in their vicinity. In many localities the forest is the only area available for pasture. Unlimited grazing is definitely incompatible with forestry, but grazing limited to the capacity of the forest and controlled forms of grazing such as rotational grazing are not necessarily an evil and might in special circumstances even be beneficial to the forest.

The greater part of India enjoys what is called a forest climate, a climate in which land newly formed or artificially barred, if not interfered with, ultimately supports a forest of one type or another. There can be no doubt that at one time much more than 50 per cent of the land surface of India was densely wooded. There is much puranic and historic evidence to support this view.

Shrinkage in area

Many of us can ourselves testify to a visible shrinkage in the area of woodlands in our province during the last thirty years. This process of forest destruction would have been far more extensive had it not been for the fact that considerable tracts of land had been statutorily reserved in the last quarter of the last century for permanent retention as forest and thereby put beyond the inroads of unplanned, casual cultivation. These reserved forests are the final remnants of the extensive forest that once covered India. The total area of forest of all kinds in India, including the States, is 206½ million acres and represents 19·3 per cent of the total land surface of the country.

It is generally accepted that a balanced land economy requires that between 20 and 25 per cent of the land surface of a country should be under forest. The Indian figure is not unduly behind this norm. But it includes private forests and panchayat forests which are in many cases derelict areas or wasting assets. A considerable proportion of the forest area occurs on the higher Himalayas and in parts of the Western Ghats which are relatively remote and inaccessible; over vast stretches of the Indo-Gangetic plain and along the east coast, forests worth the dame do not exist. As these are precisely the areas which are most densely populated and intensively cultivated, there is an acute shortage of timber and firewood. The indiscriminate clearance of forests is an inevitable consequence of the spread of agriculture and the multiplication of human communities in townships and villages as a result of an expanding population.

Policy of the Government

The policy of Government was in the past largely influenced by revenue considerations. The clearing of woodland for the purpose of bringing it under the plough was considered an unqualified good and was encouraged because it produced more revenue than the original forest could ever pay. During the last few years an added motive arose for the indiscriminate conversion of woodland and grazing land to agricultural purposes the "Grow more food" campaign. In many cases the results have been deplorable, in some disastrous, as, for instance, on the Nilgiri plateau.

So far at least as firewood, small timber, bamboos and other items of minor forest produce were concerned there was a false appearance of abundance till the outbreak of First World War. The finding of new markets for forest produce was a major preoccupation of the Forest Department. World War II opened our eyes to the real situation. It disclosed scarcity in place of the imagined abundance and the greatly enhanced supplies which it demanded aggravated the scarcity and brought it into high relief. In timber we have always been a deficit country and have relied on imports of teak from Burma. The stoppage of this source of supply during the war combined with the greatly increased war demand for timber produced an acute timber famine from which we have not yet recovered.

When the Forest Departments in India were first formed in the last quarter of the 19th century they took over a depleted forest. Extensive areas of forest had already been cleared and brought under cultivation by private persons or had been appropriated by them. Consequently it proved impossible to secure proper distribution of reserved forests over provinces as a whole. A glaring instance of mal-distribution of provincial forests is that of United Province where the forests are almost exclusively confined to the Himalayas and a narrow fringe at the foot of the Himalayas. In our own province the distribution of forests is more normal, but there are many districts where the proportion is sub-normal, as for example in Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot and Tanjore. The density and increment of the reserved forests were considerably below normal at the time of reservation and what they needed most was conservation and protection from abuse. They have been treated accordingly and a notable improvement in their condition has resulted, but they are far from being normal yet. There has indeed been a set-back as a result of the recent war fellings.

One of the common mistakes made by most people is the assumption that any injury done to a forest either by clearings, heavy fellings, burning or overgrazing is relatively easily corrected. This facile belief is based on a profound misconception of the nature of the forest or any form of wild vegetation and its intimate relation to the soil and the climate. Clearing, burning and overgrazing bring about a profound disturbance in the dynamic equilibrium prevailing in a climax forest. This disturbance may be and often is so serious as to make it impossible for the climax species to grow any longer on the site. This is what happens when evergreen forest is cleared or burnt; the regrowth is a throw back to a deciduous or scrub forest and it may take centuries for the

climax ever green forest to return to the site. The succession is a long and slow process. This is the reason why we find it so difficult to rehabilitate our panchayat forests.

Management by Village Panchayats

Considerable areas of non-timber forests were handed over in 1925 for management by village panchayats. The results have in most cases been deplorable. Over most of the area the forest has more or less completely disappeared. It was due to the assumption that dry and degraded forests which were of no importance for the production of timber or revenue could be handed over to popular management without technical control. Events have amply proved that it is precisely such areas which are most in need of technical management if it is intended to restore them to their maximum productivity. This is not to say that the immediate interests of the people should be ignored or that they should be precluded from participation in the management of their own village forests. But forestry is a long term industry, the essence of which is the principle of sustained yield; and that in meeting present demands the interests of future generations are not to be jeopardised. This required a degree of vision and self-denial which it would be too much to expect of an ordinary panchayat not controlled by technical advice.

Uncontrolled clearing, burning, felling and grazing have now brought into prominence an evil of national proportions. I refer to the evil of soil erosion which has been aptly called "Creeping death." Soil erosion is not a new phenomenon; some degree of erosion is inevitable, but under proper conditions the process is an imperceptibly slow one. But I think it is true to say more valuable top soil has been eroded out of our reserves during the last fifty years than was lost during the previous 1,000 years. There are many ways of checking erosion and of remedying the damage caused by it; contour cultivation, strip cropping, check-damming, gully plugging, etc., are various methods of dealing with this problem. But the cheapest, most fruitful and most durable method is to use vegetation to control erosion. Forest devastation is the ultimate cause of accelerated soil erosion and the remedy lies in a planned restoration of forest cover in our land.

The preservation and proper management of forests and their extension in areas where they are needed is a national duty of the first order.

[*By courtesy, A.I.R., Madras.*]

Grow Your Own Vegetables

What can we do to help resolving the acute shortage of foodgrains? This is the question generally asked. One way of contributing materially to ease this situation is for every one of us—man, woman and child—to grow vegetable crops. They can be grown more quickly and produce more per acre than grain crops.

There are families having open spaces in courtyards and backyards, still others have spacious open space on all sides of their residence. A part of such places can and should be devoted to vegetable culture. Those who have no open space can grow vegetables in wooden boxes, empty kerosene oil tins and broken earthenware.

Apart from the exigencies of scarcity of grains and famine conditions, every home, under normal conditions, should have a vegetable garden to get, in whatever portion possible, its supply of fresh vegetables throughout the year. The intake of vegetables by the average person in India is extremely low.

Besides being nutritious, vegetables form the cheapest source of protective foods. They can take the place of the more expensive foods which cannot be afforded by every family. Every family, therefore, can through its kitchen garden economics on its food budget, eat more of the protective foods and less of the cereals which are so sorely needed for the masses.

Almost all classes of soil in our country are fit for vegetable growing. Even sandy and stiff soil can be used by adding manures like town refuse, leaf mould, nightsoil, factory wastes, kitchen waste, cow dung and oil cake.

Grass land requires a good dressing after digging or ploughing as it is usually very acid.

The land should be kept fertile by spading, hosing and occasional dressing of manures and fertilizers. Soils containing plenty of hums will grow better vegetables. Hums is decayed vegetable matter like rotted dung, leaves, weeds or grass.

The land should be dug up with spade to a depth of about 8 or 9 inches. When applying the manure, it should be spread evenly over the area, digging it in immediately so as to mix with the soil thoroughly before sowing. No layer of manure should be put at the bottom of the trench (except in the case of celery).

While selecting a site avoid low-lying ground, which is often badly drained. The place should also be open and as far as possible free from the shade of trees and buildings.

It would be convenient to divide the plot into two portions by a central *pakdandi* (pathway) and beds of convenient size made to become accessible from this path.

A unit of about one-sixteenth of an acre (300 square yards) should provide a major portion of an average family's requirements of vegetables, other things being normal. But in case so much land is not available, any small plot should be used. Those who have no land can fill receptacles like wooden boxes, etc., with earth to a depth of 9 to 12 inches adding a seer or two of well rotted cow manure. Such vegetables like *Lauki* (bottle gourd) *Kakri* (water melon) and *tori* (sponge gourd) can be conveniently grown if the containers are kept in sunny places and the vines provided with supports for trailing.

The fertilizers are sulphate of *Potash* and *Super Phosphate*. The vegetable enthusiast will always like to use these fertilizers; but the layman need not worry if it means much trouble, although the local agricultural office will only be too willing to help.

It is advisable not to use the organic manures in fresh condition, because as such they produce heat while decomposing, attract insects and destroy plant life.

A mixture of cow dung, horse dung, bazaar sweepings and kitchen waste would make an ideal manure.

For all those who have garden compounds or land, it is worthwhile having one's own compost heap or manure pit, which can be made by throwing in all waste vegetables, sweepings, kitchen refuse, soft hedge chippings, lawn mowings, dead leaves, waste grass, manure and anything that

is disease-free and will rot down in a reasonable time.

You would thus have an excellent stock of manure.

If you wish to have a vegetable plot of 20 feet by 25 feet, you will require 7 maunds of rotted cow manure or about 4 maunds of sludge.

Good seed is necessary to ensure good crop. Cheap seed proves very expensive in the long run and has damped the ardour of many enthusiasts. The vegetable seeds are living bodies which must be taken care of. They should be stored in air-tight containers or bottles and if exposed to the atmospheric humidity, will lose their germination power. It is always preferable to use fresh seeds, for they have a food reserve in themselves which should not get dried up.

Soil condition is equally important. "Never sow on wet ground" is the saying. Hake down the surface to a fine tilth. Draw out the drills or shallow trenches and cover the seeds easily and effectively. The seed is a delicate thing. Its supply of food within is very quickly exhausted once growth commences. The seed must be surrounded by moist soil particles to absorb the moisture, which softens the outer coat of the seed and enters taking with it oxygen, thus setting the machinery of germination into motion. The soft and fragile young shoot cannot be expected to push its way through hard lumps.

The time of sowing is influenced by the length of time the crop takes to mature and partly by the country of origin of the plant. If the plant was from a colder climate (e.g., garden peas and beans), then sowing must be delayed until the soil has lost all its summer heat; otherwise, the seeds will just rot away.

It is difficult to give a time-table for sowing of reaping which will be applicable to the whole of the country; but broadly, winter and summer sowings can be determined in respect of several vegetables. The local Agricultural Officer will be able to advise, as also the local seedsman.

If you have a mali, he will know much about it. If you haven't, ask your neighbour's mali.

As regards the *depth to sow*, most seeds germinate quicker and better with only a bare covering of soil, but if we sow out of doors shallowly, the seeds will be exposed to the drying influences of sun and wind. Once germination has commenced, it must proceed unhindered, or the seeding dies. As the seeds contain only a limited amount of food, the plant must begin to fend for itself by means of its roots, which extract food from the soil and its leaves. The smaller the seed the less food it contains. Therefore the small seeds must be sown nearer the surface than the large seeds, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, etc., have small seeds and should be sown an inch deep on light soils.

Parsnips, beetroots, etc., have medium,-sized seeds and may go in up to an inch and a quarter. Peas have bigger seeds and may go in 2 inches in light soil and 1½ inches in a heavy one. Runner and french beans may go 1½ inches deep if sown early and 2 inches if sown late.

To enable the plants to start on their career without undue competition from neighbours, avoid making the furrows shallow or the drills too narrow.

Broadcasting seeds is not a good method. It often makes weeding very difficult and does not regiment the growth properly. Great care has to be taken at the time of fertilization for that is the critical time when the plant's future is decided. Some of the measures to be taken are, growing the plants for seeds well away from the same species, netting from insects, fertilizing by hand or by other methods, etc. The beginner, however, may leave these functions to the professional vegetable grower or the institutional gardens.

But it is necessary that as the plants grow, the soil should be occasionally stirred with the hand-hoe or wheel-hoe and the garden kept clean of all weeds. Weeds rob the plants of their food and should be killed while they are small. Weeds that are near the plant can be pulled by hand.

Rotational cropping is important and interesting especially due to limited labour and the cost of manure. It conserves plant food and checks spread of insect pests and diseases. The good plan is to rotate the entire garden each year. If this is not possible, the location of various vegetables may be changed each succeeding season. The rootcrops may be rotated with foliage crops and *vice versa*.

"Grow and eat more vegetables" should be our watchword. It should solve in a certain measure the problem of food shortage. It would have an economic effect on the present high market prices of vegetables and it will produce a greater balance in our present-day diet.

Railway Earnings

South Indian Railway

Additional trains were not introduced during this month. The details of the public train miles as compared with July 1946 are as follows:—

Public train miles.	*July* 1946.	*July* 1947.
Coaching	695,435	847,714
Goods	269,457	284,643
Total ..	964,892	1,132,357

The increase over July 1946 is due to the introduction of additional trains.

Details of traffic and earnings, both coaching and goods, carried during the month of July 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below:—

Coaching traffic.	*July* 1946.	*July* 1947.	*June* 1947.
Number of passengers ..	11,144,460	13,125,769	13,532,312
Earnings in rupees ..	66,62,373	72,79,348	78,99,187
Goods traffic.			
Weight in tons ..	513,632	500,875	485,809
Earnings in rupees ..	49,37,788	48,90,035	44,73,521

The increase in coaching earnings as compared with July 1946 is due to the introduction of additional trains and increase in fares, while the decrease in comparison with June 1947 is due to the close of the marriage season by 15th July 1947.

The decrease in goods earnings is due to less movement of rice and paddy, grain and pulses, fruits and vegetables, cement, military and other goods.

Book Review

"RURAL RECONSTRUCTION"—*By* MUKHTAR SINGH. Published by Kitabistan, Allahabad.

Since the close of the war the air is thick with talks of rural reconstruction. This is only natural, for in a country like India studded with 70,000 villages, the prosperity of the villager is the real basis of national prosperity. It, therefore, follows that the first logical step in any scheme of national amelioration should be the uplift of the villagers. This point has been realized long before the end of the war and there has been considerable activity in the sphere of drawing up rural reconstruction plans. The Bombay plan, the people's plan and several other plans are familiar to almost everybody now. The first of these envisages the all round improvement of conditions in this country at a cost of 10,000 crores of rupees. The "people's plan" which has been prepared by Mr. M. N. Roy deals with the question of rural reconstruction from, as he says, the people's points of view. In addition to these, Central and Provincial Governments, have drawn up various schemes for rural rehabilitation. Recently Mr. A. D. Shroff, a well-known economist and businessman and one of the signatories of the Bombay Plan suggested the creation of a Ministry for Economic Affairs charged with the special duty of promoting the economic well-being of the country. He also expressed the opinion that there should be a permanent Planning Commission in charge of developmental activities. Thus public interest in planning is at a high pitch now.

In this context a book on rural reconstruction must be warmly welcome. Of course of late there has been a spate of literature on the subject dealing with it from different angles. The present book by Mukhtar Singh is valuable in that it deals with the subject from a layman's point of view. The book falls broadly into two parts, the first dealing with some of the economic ills of the country and the second with their remedies. The initial point stressed by Mr. Singh is that rural reconstruction, which is largely synonymous with the reconstruction of agriculture, should also aim at the reconstruction of the agriculturist. The author expresses the view that improvement in agriculture need not necessarily bring about improvement of the agriculturist. For example, in a period of low prices for agricultural commodities, the agriculturist may not be benefited, though from a production point of view agriculture might have shown considerable progress. As regards the chief economic ills, he refers to the usual factors such as the poor public health of the country, the low standard of living, the low productivity of agriculture, etc. He stresses the fact that production has to be increased allround if the general level of prosperity has to be raised. Incidentally this point has also been emphasized by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in one of his speeches recently. The author makes concrete suggestions as to how increase of agricultural production can be brought about. Some of these are familiar to all, such as expansion of irrigation facilities, intensive cultivation, improvement in livestock, etc. Special stress is also laid by the author regarding the development of cottage industries. The author is of the opinion that both cottage and large scale industries can exist side by side without one reacting detrimentally on the other. The case of Japan as well as that of China are cited in this connexion.

There is a tendency among people to regard rural reconstruction as an unilateral affair. This is a manifestly incorrect position. Success of rural reconstruction plans depends as much on the people as on the Government. This fact was amply demonstrated by Japan, China and Denmark, where the patience and perseverance of the people had contributed not a little to rural prosperity. This is a lesson to the people of India.

New Book on Aboriginal Life

A remarkable volume on Indian anthropology entitled *The Muria and their Ghotul* by Dr. Verrier Elwin, is announced for publication in September by the Oxford University Press. Dr. Elwin's earlier works have established his fame as a sympathetic and scholarly anthropologist. The present work covers every aspect of the life of one of the most interesting of aboriginal tribes—the Muria of Bastar State. The ghotul, which is the most remarkable of the Muria's institutions, is the village dormitory to which all the unmarried boys and girls of the tribe belong. The subject of this book is as much a study of Muria life as of this institution, the ghotul, for the one is intimately associated with the other.

The book is to be prized at Rs. 25. It contains over 700 pages and is fully illustrated ; there are no less than 150 photographs.

Alleged lathi charge

Apropos of the report in the press that Mr. A. K. Gopalan, a detenu in the Cannanore Central Jail, gave up his fast on 2nd August on the Government undertaking to institute an enquiry into the alleged lathi charge on Communist prisoners on 6th July 1947, Government wish to state that the statement is incorrect. No undertaking of any sort was given by or on behalf of the Government to the detenue in question. On the contrary Mr. A. K. Gopalan was informed by the Government on August 1, 1947, that the alleged lathi charge on Communist prisoners on 6th April 1947 was not a matter concerning the detenu and the Government were satisfied that no enquiry was called for in that connection.

(*Continued from page* 14)

opens the factory and commences business within six months from now, preference should be given to the old workers when labour is recruited. The question of monthly payment of wages, provision for casual leave, for festival holidays with pay, pay for overtime and grant of weekly holiday on Sunday should be considered only when the factory reopens. The dearness allowance already paid is adequate. No bonus is payable as the management has increased the basic wages by twelve and a half per cent and dearness allowance by six and one-fourth per cent of the basic wages from January 1947. The management has agreed to pay a compassionate allowance of four months' wages to the widow of Kannan.

The award will be made binding on the parties for a period of one year.

The Finance Minister of Indian Union

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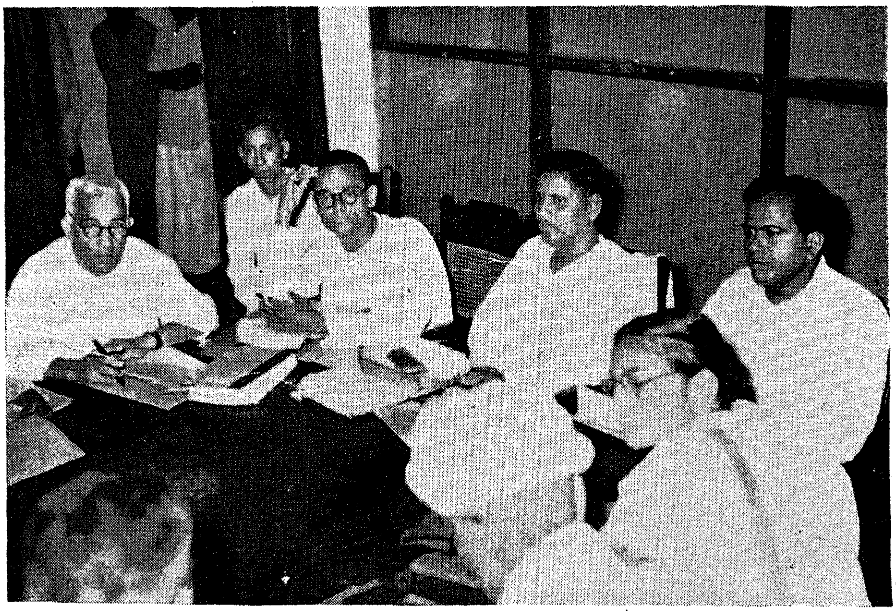

The Provincial Harijan Uplift Committee Conference

Registered No. M-4767

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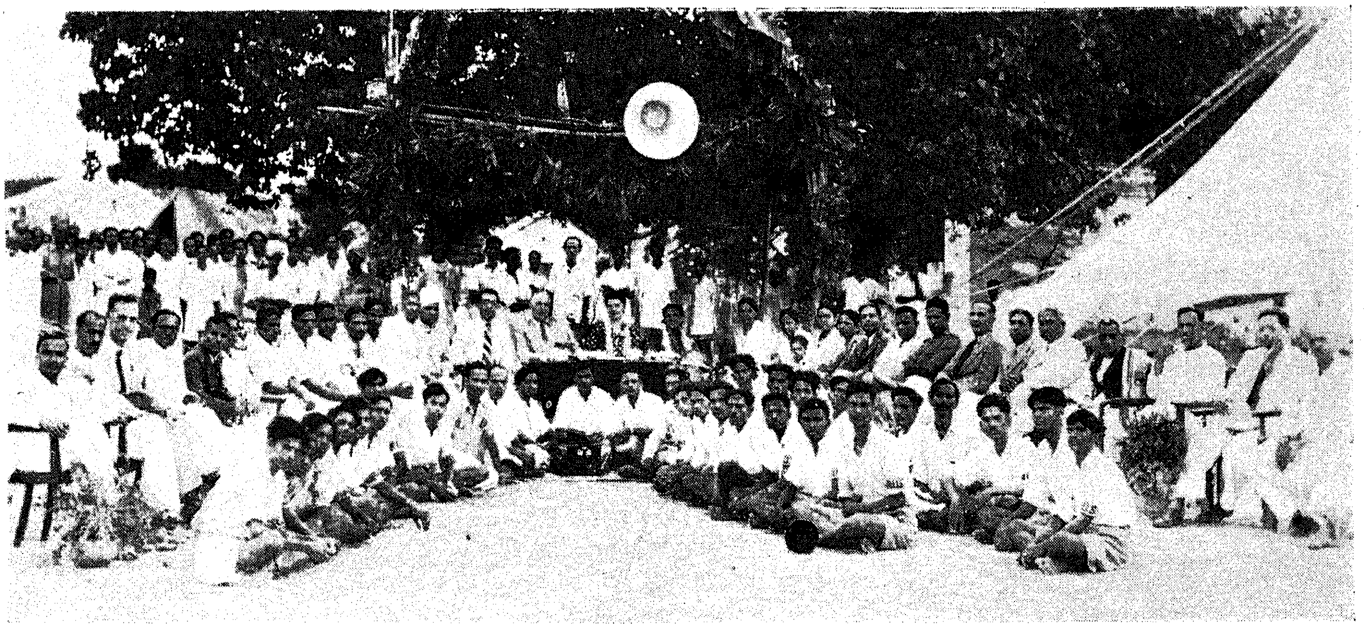

One of the many meetings held in connection with rural tournaments in prohibition districts. Sports form an integral part of the ameliorative measures introduced in areas where prohibition is in force

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